



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Denounces Assassination Attack on Mubarak

NC2606151695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1330 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—The Arab league General Secretariat today condemned the terrorist criminal attempt on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa this morning.

The Arab League issued a statement saying that the General Secretariat has followed up the reports on the treacherous attack on the motorcade of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak as he was heading from Addis Ababa airport to the Organization of African Unity summit center. President Mubarak was scheduled to address the summit in defense of Arab and African issues.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Head, Afghan Official View Peace Efforts

LD2306081795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1451 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Jun — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has stressed the interest of the political forces in his country in the efforts being exerted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] aimed at finding a final peaceful settlement to the Afghan crisis.

In a verbal message conveyed by his adviser, Mas'ud Khalili, to OIC Secretary General Hamed Algabid, during their meeting today, the Afghan president called for "the need for the OIC to continue its initiative at this time in particular, following the difficulties affecting international efforts to bring about peace in Afghanistan."

In an OIC general secretariat statement distributed here today, Algabid indicated that he had "received an encouraging report from his personal envoy in Afghanistan, Ambassador Ibrahim Bakr, who had returned from there immediately regarding the results of his consultations and contacts with the leaders of the various Afghan political factions and forces in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The OIC envoy has the aim of arriving at an initiative that is acceptable to all the Afghan forces in order to end the fighting, halt the bloodshed, and bring peace to the country.

For his part, Algabid stressed to the adviser of the Afghan president that the OIC was keen "to continue its intensive efforts and initiatives to crystallize a peace

initiative in Afghanistan, emphasizing the need for coordination with international efforts in this regard." [passage omitted]

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 20 Jun NC2406175895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 20 June edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Paper Praises Efforts To Protect Youths From Western Influences
2. Writer Sympathizes With Abu-Zayd, Asks Him To Admit Mistake
3. Economist Sees 'Realistic' Islamic Solution to Unemployment
4. Mufti Tantawi Defines, Explains Apostasy
5. Dr. Abu-Zayd Explains Stance on Allegations of Apostasy
6. Plaintiff Expresses Position on Abu-Zayd Verdict
7. Western Media Interest in Labeling Islam Terroristic Explained
8. Report Expresses Concern Over Attacks on Arabs in U.S.

PAPER PRAISES EFFORTS TO PROTECT YOUTHS FROM WESTERN INFLUENCES

'AQIDATI's 500-word editorial on page 3 praises the setting up of offices and centers which have spread in the governorates to teach the Koran and true Islamic values to the youths during the summer in order to keep them from being misled by extremist and other deviant thinking. The editorial comments on efforts by "the enemies of mankind and opponents of humanity" who have tried to weaken nations and destroy morality by spreading the use of satellite dishes to promote the corruption of the West. The editorial maintains that the Muslims and Arabs were unaware of these designs and woke up a bit too late. However, there is still hope of rescuing ourselves by educating our youths, the editorial concludes.

WRITER SYMPATHIZES WITH ABU-ZAYD, ASKS HIM TO ADMIT MISTAKE

Basyuni al-Halawani in his "With All Frankness" 600-word column on page 6 writes an article entitled "Will Nasr Abu-Zayd Take Back His Words?" He expresses sympathy with Dr. Nasr Abu-Zayd, who has been branded an apostate and ordered by the court to divorce his Muslim wife. Al-Halawani maintains that

his sympathy does not mean that he thinks the Egyptian judiciary is unfair: quite the contrary, it is very upright and honest. He says his sympathy stems from purely humanitarian feelings, adding that Dr. Abu-Zayd must retract his statements about Islam. Not only will he be able to keep his wife then, but he will also win Islam to his side. The writer concludes that many intellectuals have made mistakes and then admitted them. Dr. Abu-Zayd should do the same.

ECONOMIST SEES 'REALISTIC' ISLAMIC SOLUTION TO UNEMPLOYMENT

On page 8 'AQIDATI publishes a 2,000-word interview with an economist Dr. Ni'mat Mashhur, who advocates that Islamic solutions to the problem of unemployment are both idealistic and realistic. After discussing the different kinds of unemployment, she views Islamic values that in themselves offer solutions to unemployment. The work ethic in Islam, for example, provides one solution, as does the prominent place Islam gives to education and knowledge. Alms-giving in Islam also offers a solution to unemployment, where the employed provide for the unemployed. Mashhur concludes that the role of the state is to entrench all these Islamic values and principles.

MUFTI TANTAWI DEFINES, EXPLAINS APOSTASY

On page 11 'AQIDATI publishes a 1,500-word interview with Mufti of the Republic Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi by Mahmud 'Ushub. The mufti defines apostasy and then discusses its various aspects in detail. He maintains that one of the regulations on apostasy is that marital relations between the apostate and his wife should be broken. Asked who has the right to judge whether someone is an apostate, the mufti says legal experts, ulema, and judges have such a right. Asked what happens when a wife refuses to leave her apostate husband, the mufti says the wife must be forced to do so. The mufti concludes his interview by noting that he has not read Abu-Zayd's book, and therefore cannot pass judgment on this issue.

DR. ABU-ZAYD EXPLAINS STANCE ON ALLEGATIONS OF APOSTASY

'AQADATI's pages 12 and 13 are devoted to the Dr. Nasr Abu-Zayd's case. One of the items on page 12 is a 700-word interview with the doctor by Ibrahim Nasr in which the former expresses his anger at the allegations against him. He notes that he is a good Muslim and his intention was not to slander Islam but to explain the Islamic texts. He says he has nothing to say about on the court order. Abu-Zayd says: "It angers, upsets, and disturbs me a great deal to see that university professors,

a former culture minister, and a shari'ah professor are inciting a batch of terrorists to file a court case against me." He feels that this means they cannot argue his points logically. He argues that he did not touch on the principles of Islam; he merely interpreted some of the texts.

PLAINTIFF EXPRESSES POSITION ON ABU-ZAYD VERDICT

Pages 12 and 13 also contain a 2,000-word report by Mustafa Yasin, Muhammad al-Abnudi, and Muna 'Abd-al-Na'im on statements by Counselor Muhammad Samidah 'Abd-al-Samad, the person who filed the court case against Dr. Abu-Zayd, and other concerned personalities. 'Abd-al-Samad talks about the procedures for filing the court case. He discusses the various stages he went through and notes that he based his case on Dr. Abu-Zayd's books and writings. He calls for dismissing him from teaching Koranic studies because he could do a great deal of damage. He says the university should confine him to teaching grammar only.

WESTERN MEDIA INTEREST IN LABELING ISLAM TERRORISTIC EXPLAINED

A 200-word article signed with the initials A.D. on page 20 entitled "Western Terrorism" asks why no one has accused the Western states of terrorism since they have been the scene of recent terrorist attacks, just as happens in the Islamic countries. He calls for fairness in dealing with issues and for stopping all terrorist attacks everywhere. "We wonder why the Western media did not hasten to condemn all the European states as terrorists, as the Islamic world is accused of" A.D. notes. "We wonder why the accusation of terrorism is pinned on Muslims, but not others" it adds. The answer is simple, according to A.D.: Western media, which is controlled by Jews, has a great interest in labeling Islam as terroristic. The column concludes: "We demand fairness and ask that things be placed in their proper perspective."

REPORT EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ATTACKS ON ARABS IN U.S.

A 100-word report on page 21 notes that Muslims in the United States have been coming under attack since the Oklahoma bombing because of the initial wrong reports about Middle Eastern looking men being linked to the bombing. Arab-American organizations have expressed grave concern over repeated attacks on Islamic centers in the United States.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on DOP, Authority, Peace

JN2606195495 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1745 GMT 26 Jun 95

["Text" of address by PA President Yasir 'Arafat at the OAU summit in Addis Ababa on 26 June—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Meles Zenawi, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Your Excellencies heads of the delegations of the member states, his excellency secretary general of the Organization of African Unity [OAU]. At the outset, I would like to thank His Excellency President Meles Zenawi for the good hospitality. I would also like to thank his friendly country which has been hosting the African summit for 32 years. I would also like to congratulate him for his election as chairman of the OAU. [passage omitted]

About a year ago, the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] assumed its responsibilities in its homeland, Palestine, after the PLO and the Israeli Government reached the Declaration of Principles [DOP], which was signed on 13 September 1993 in Washington and later in Cairo. As far as we are concerned, we have sought to ensure faithful and meticulous implementation of the articles of the DOP. We have fulfilled all our obligations, hoping to help achieve a peaceful settlement that meets our people's legitimate rights after long decades of occupation, repression, and exile and puts an end to decades of wars and conflicts which have left their bloody fingerprints in the region. We also hoped that the DOP would pave the way for agreements on other tracks of Arab-Israeli negotiations to achieve comprehensive peace in the entire region on the basis of the resolutions of the international legitimacy and in accordance with the principles and resolutions constituting the basis of the Madrid peace conference.

After the establishment of the PNA, we had a crowded agenda in front of us. We found ourselves faced with arduous tasks and huge responsibilities. The black years of occupation have left extensive destruction which affected every aspect of life in our country. We have returned to build a homeland which has been destroyed and all its infrastructure deliberately demolished. We have returned to build an economy whose basic structure has been uprooted. We have returned to wage the battle of reconstruction and to turn the homeland into a workshop of dreams and projects, relying on the scientific and financial capabilities of our people both inside the homeland and in exile. We also relied on the aid that the international community pledged to extend to help us in the reconstruction process. However,

that process has faced obstacles which hampered the reconstruction effort. Moreover, those obstacles have threatened to expose the peace process itself to paralysis and collapse.

Mr. Chairman: We have been faced with continuous procrastination and attempts to evade and circumvent faithful and meticulous implementation of the DOP.

It has appeared that some people have not yet understood the reality of the historic achievement that was made when the peace of the brave was concluded, and as if there are those who are under the illusion that they can stop the movement of history.

It is painful that one year has passed since the return of the National Authority to the homeland without the implementation of a basic article which the DOP called for implementing by July last year, which is the holding of Palestinian legislative elections, completing the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank, and receiving the powers and responsibilities in the rest of the West Bank.

This was accompanied by an ugly return to practices that are remnants of the occupation eras and the results of the expansionist and force mentality. The construction of settlements has continued in several Palestinian areas, primarily in holy Jerusalem, which Israel is Judaizing, changing its democratic nature, isolating, and preventing Christians and Muslims from freely carrying out their religious rites there. The policy of imposing siege and closure have continued with the aim of fragmenting the geographical and demographic unity of the Palestinian homeland. Naturally, this inflicted huge losses on our national economy, and dealt strong blows to the reconstruction plans and investment projects.

Mr. President: The greatest loss was that these policies have largely weakened the credibility of peace among the masses of our people and in the region, and enhanced doubts about the possibility of making progress toward implementing the other parts of the DOP agreement.

Your Excellencies: The peace process will be in danger unless swift progress is made in implementing the agreement that has been concluded.

When we speak about the peace process, we mean all tracks. It is impossible to have both land and peace, and security and occupation. At the same time, it is impossible to impose siege and talk about regional economic projects and multilateral cooperation. Israel cannot reap the fruits of peace without adhering to its conditions.

Peace is a two-way street. Each party should meet its obligations in order to realize the goals of freedom,

security, stability, and peace sought by the region's peoples. Here lies the importance of the role which Africa can play vis-a-vis this delicate and serious situation given its important position and weight.

Mr. President: At a time when we are intensifying talks with the Israeli Government to implement agreements on 1 July, as agreed earlier, we emphasize the importance of the international community's role and the need for this community to continue its supervision to guarantee the implementation of agreements. We expect the international community to say loudly that each party should prove its commitment and honor its pledges vis-a-vis peace. We also expect this community to urge all countries to support the process of building and reconstruction in Palestine through their fulfillment of their promises and pledges. We realize that our brothers here fully support our stands and demands. This has been and will continue to be the position to be adopted by the true African friends toward their Palestinian brethren and their just cause.

Your Excellencies: Palestine, which has reinstated a national entity on the homeland's territory, looks forward to establishing the closest relations with the African continent's states. There are many horizons to be explored to establish joint cooperation that would serve the interests of our peoples in the various areas of development. Our determination to invite the OAU to take part in the international supervision of our legislative elections is an expression of our appreciation and gratitude for the African role.

In the recent years of this century and amid sweeping international changes and the emergence of global economic groupings, the cooperation of developing peoples is an indispensable necessity if these peoples are to enter the next century with confidence reflecting their ability and fulfilling their duty to protect their entities, economies, and future.

Once again, I greet you and wish this session success.

'Arafat Calls Mubarak on Assassination Attempt

JN2606203495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has telephoned Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo from his residence in Addis Ababa and congratulated him on his safety and escaping the assassination attempt to which he was exposed today.

Sha'th Condemns Assassination Attempt on Mubarak

NC2606184795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Jun 95

[Statement by Nabil Sha'th, PA minister of planning and international cooperation, on 26 June; date not given; from "The Talking Newspaper" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The sinful attack against President Husni Mubarak this morning has had serious repercussions. From Palestinian circles, there is nothing but full condemnation of this ugly crime. Thanks to Almighty God for saving President Mubarak from this wicked assassination attempt. This is an attempt against Egypt, Palestine, and the entire Arab world.

For us, President Mubarak is a support for the Palestinian cause, especially at this particular time when we are painstakingly trying to regain the occupied West Bank for the Palestinian Authority [PA] through extremely difficult negotiations. It is an attempt to undermine all President Mubarak's efforts to restore unity in the Arab ranks and strengthen the Arab position. It is a blow to stability and to all attempts to repair the aftermath and destructive repercussions of the Gulf war.

We on the Palestinian scene condemn this crime and thank God Almighty that it failed to achieve its objective. May God protect Egypt and its president. We hope that in the next few days we will continue the peace process on the road to the objectives of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, objectives that President Mubarak and Egypt have done all they could to realize.

[Signed] Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation with the Palestinian Authority

Palestinian Ambassador Wounded in Mubarak Attack

JN2606114995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1114 GMT 26 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, in Addis Ababa, by Ibrahim Milhim in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Milhim] Marwan, good evening.

[Kanafani] Good evening to you.

[Milhim] What is happening?

[Kanafani, interrupting] Before you ask, I would like to reassure everybody that all the members of the mission, President 'Arafat and all the brothers are in good health. We were worried by what happened. The incident took

place immediately before the president's arrival, a short time before the arrival of President 'Arafat's plane. The signs that the incident took place can still be seen on the road.

[Milhim] Reports mention that the Palestinian ambassador in the Ethiopian capital Yusuf Rajab was wounded?

[Kanafani] Yes, the incident took place after President Husni Mubarak reviewed the honor guard and was on his way to the summit headquarters. The ambush took place on the road. The area is some 50 meters from the Palestinian embassy, the building which houses the embassy. Brother Yusuf was on his way to welcome the president because we arrived half an hour after President Mubarak's arrival. The ambassador was among the civilians who were wounded by a random bullet. He was wounded in the leg. The wound is not serious. I believe that he has left hospital and gone home.

[Milhim] We wish him speedy recovery...

[Kanafani, interrupting] Of course, the president is disturbed by this operation and has stated that this is a criminal action targeting President Mubarak's life. He said he is happy that President Mubarak has escaped from this attempt.

[Milhim] What about the situation in the Ethiopian capital now?

[Kanafani] There is apprehension, you know, because the country hosts this large number of heads of states. The Ethiopian president sent the director of protocol who told me that the president ordered that President Yasir 'Arafat's place of residence be moved to the presidential palace. You know, this is a precautionary measure. I view this as a good gesture toward his excellency the president. [passage omitted]

Gaza Police Arrest 50 Hamas Activists in Crackdown

NC2606173795 Paris AFP in English
1527 GMT 26 Jun 95

[By Ezz Sa'id]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 26 (AFP) — Palestinian police arrested 50 Hamas [Islamic resistance Movement] hardliners including five of the top fundamentalist leaders on the Gaza Strip in a new crackdown Monday [26 June] after a suicide bombing.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin congratulated Yasir 'Arafat's autonomy regime.

"I want to say a word of appreciation to the Palestinian Authority for the arrests which took place overnight in Gaza," Rabin said.

"It is high time that Israel and the regimes of the Middle East united against the enemies of peace," he added, five days before an Israel-PLO deadline for an accord to spread autonomy across the West Bank.

A senior police officer said the men had been taken in for questioning after a Hamas suicide bomber blew up a donkey cart near a Jewish settlement, killing himself and lightly wounding three Israeli soldiers on Sunday [25 June].

"If we have proof they were involved in the attack they will be brought before the courts," he said, refusing to be named. The officer would not say how many had been held.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said two of its founders — Ibrahim al-Yazuri and Muhammad Shamma' — were among 50 held, including other top fundamentalists Mahmud Zahar, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr and Shaykh Ahmad Nimr.

Photographer Ahmad Jadallah of the REUTERS NEWS AGENCY was also held.

Hamas said the suicide bombing was in "solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike and (to) avenge Mahmud al-Khawaja," a leader of the Islamic Jihad shot dead Thursday in the Gaza Strip.

Israel was widely accused of the murder, but denied it.

Palestinian security service chief Nasr Yusuf has vowed "maximum effort to prevent any retaliation against Israel in or from the Gaza Strip," after Jihad threats.

Meanwhile, shots were fired at three policemen from a passing car in the Gaza border town of Rafah, witnesses said. Two were wounded and the third disarmed before the unidentified gunmen sped off.

Gaza police have detained scores of Moslem suspects after each attack against Israelis in recent months, and then released them gradually.

The last time was after an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber killed seven soldiers and an American woman near Kfar Darom settlement on April 9.

Palestinian leaders are concerned that attacks on Israelis could be used as a pretext to break the July 1 target date for an accord on the second phase of autonomy.

Intense negotiations are underway to try to meet the deadline for an Israeli army redeployment away from Palestinian towns to allow elections for a self-rule council to take place.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said four days could be enough time to strike a deal that would include a release of prisoners, which the Palestinians are demanding as part of an agreement.

"We are working every day at a quicker pace and, if the Palestinians want it, four days will be enough," Peres said.

An Israeli ministerial committee was to meet on Thursday to discuss the 6,500 jailed Palestinians.

A hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners demanding to be freed spread to al-Dahiriya jail south of Hebron on Sunday evening, pushing the total number refusing food to nearly 4,000, lawyers said Monday.

"The Israelis tried to break up the strike and guards threw teargas into the cells," said lawyer Muhammad Musallam.

Six prisoners were taken to hospital for teargas inhalation, he said. One was in serious condition.

Several prisoners have reportedly also been taken to hospital suffering from the effects of the strike, which began on June 18 among 700 inmates at the Jenaid prison in Nablus.

Israeli troops in the West Bank town opened fire on 2,000 Palestinians demonstrating Sunday in support of the fast, killing three and wounding 50.

Two buses were torched in Nablus on Monday as shops downed shutters in mourning.

Israel has released about 5,000 prisoners since the 1993 Declaration of Principles for autonomy, whereby redeployment and elections were to take place by July 13, 1994.

Hamas Denies Responsibility

TA2606181895 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1800 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a leaflet issued in the Gaza Strip this evening, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has denied responsibility for the booby-trapped wagon bombing near Neve Deqalim yesterday in the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Hamas stated in the leaflet that the terrorist, Mu'ayyid Rukh from Khan Yunus, carried out the attack of his own volition.

In the wake of the bombing, the Palestinian Police have so far detained 30 Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip, including the leaders of the organization's political arm.

Prisoners Continue Hunger Strike for 7th Day

JN2406191795 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1730 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian and Arab prisoners and detainees in the occupation jails continue their open political hunger strike for the seventh consecutive day. Demonstrations, sit-ins, and various activities were organized in various Palestinian areas, towns, villages, and camps to express solidarity with the detainees.

'Riot' Breaks Out After Detainee Protest March

TA2606132495 *Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew*
26 Jun 95 p A3

[Report by Yosef Elgazi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday in Nablus, a protest march from the city to the Junayd Prison, staged in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners, clashed with the Israeli army. According to Palestinian sources, two demonstrators were killed in the clash and dozens were hurt by live bullets and tear gas. [passage omitted]

Shahdi Muhammad 'Uzaymah, a 22-year-old student at al-Najah University and resident of the village of Burqa', was shot in the head and killed. His body was first taken to the Rafidiyah Hospital and later buried in the presence of hundreds. The other fatality is Wahil al-Haraz, aged 21, who died from his wounds in the Hadassah Hospital.

Four of the dozens of wounded Palestinians are in a grave condition. Palestinian sources reported that the badly wounded were taken to the Hadassah and al-Maqasid Hospitals in Jerusalem and that those who were wounded lightly were taken to the Rafidiyah Hospital.

While the IDF claims that its soldiers fired rubber bullets at the demonstrators, Palestinian sources say that live bullets were fired as well. The sources noted that Palestinian reporters who came to cover the demonstrations in Nablus and Jerusalem were also wounded.

Last night, representatives of all the political organizations — including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and other opposition organizations operating in the West Bank — held a meeting after which they issued a joint statement. The rare joint statement termed the army's operation in Nablus yesterday "a slaughter." According to them, the army fired at a peaceful march deliberately without any reason.

The statement calls on the world's governments and human rights movements to intervene and asked that the UN Security Council convene. The organizations

also announced that a mourning day will be observed today in Nablus and that a general strike will be staged in the territories tomorrow.

East Jerusalem 'City Council' Holds First Session

TA2606103195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Jun 95 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The first session of the "East Jerusalem City Council," the establishment of which was announced by the Palestinian Authority [PA] some three weeks ago, was held last Tuesday [20 June].

The session took place in the offices of the East Jerusalem Industry and Trade Chambers and was attended by Dr. Amin Majaj, who is considered "East Jerusalem mayor"; Shaykh 'Ali Qaddurah, the chamber president; Fa'iq Barakat, the chamber director; Nihad Abu-Gharbiyah, director of the East Jerusalem al-Ibrahimiya College; and Musa al-Bitar, former chairman of the board of executives of the Arab Insurance Company.

Security sources noted that the council met under the authority vested in it by the PA through a decree issued by PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. According to the sources, the decree was issued in contravention of the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

The sources added that reports to the effect that the PA had decided to finance the East Jerusalem City Council are being looked into at this time.

Israelis Deport Wife of Jihad's al-Shaqaqi

JN2506195095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli authorities this morning deported Fathiyah al-Shaqaqi, wife of Fathi al-Shaqaqi — a leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement — to Jordan via the Allenby Bridge.

The Higher Court of Justice rejected an appeal submitted by Fathiyah al-Shaqaqi to renew her residency in East Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni Denounces Expulsion

JN2706091395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Jun 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman— Israel has expelled the wife of the leader of a militant Palestinian group after refusing to grant her permit to live in Arab East Jerusalem, Palestinian sources in Amman said.

The sources could not immediately provide details of the whereabouts of Fathiyah al-Shaqaqi, wife of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad group, but they expected her to join her husband in Damascus.

Israel expelled Mrs. al-Shaqaqi and her three children saying it would not give her permission to live in the occupied territories because she lived in Syria for six years, a country at a state of war with Israel, and because her husband was leading a group waging attacks against Israel.

An Israeli spokeswoman said no force was used against Mrs. al-Shaqaqi. She said the woman knew she could no longer stay in lands under Israel's occupation after losing an appeal in Israel's courts to have her Jerusalem residency reinstated.

The Islamic Jihad, along with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has led a violent campaign against the 1993 Israel-PLO peace accord.

Earlier this month, the Israeli supreme court upheld the government's argument that Fathiyah al-Shaqaqi had transferred her place of residence to Syria, thus forfeiting her right to permanent residency in Jerusalem.

Mrs. al-Shaqaqi had argued she had not had any intention of formally changing residence but had only followed her exiled husband.

Faysal al-Husayni, the senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official in Jerusalem, denounced the Israeli decision.

In a statement issued from his headquarters, the Orient House, the PLO base in Jerusalem, Mr. al-Husayni said the expulsion contravened the spirit of the Middle East peace process and was collective punishment.

The statement said:

The decision of the Israeli high court in June 6, 1995 against Fathiyah Shafiq Taha al-Shaqaqi, which stated that she is no longer a permanent resident of Jerusalem with her children, is another violation added to an [as published] previous violations practised by the Israeli authorities against Jerusalem and its Palestinian residents, completing its plans that aims to evacuate the city from its Palestinian residents.

"This decision violates all international laws and principles, and human rights law. At the same time, it contradicts the Israeli laws themselves. Article (11/A) of the entry law to Israel "despite of its illegality to be practised in Jerusalem, since it is a part of the Palestinian occupied territories according to international resolutions 242 and 252 issued by the International Security Council" states that any permanent resident of Israel who

is absent out of the country seven years or more continuously without making any connection with the Israeli authorities by any means, will lose his or her right in "permanent residency" in Israel. Moreover, the same will happen to any body who gains a citizenship status in the country where he or she lives.

"Although the high court reported that Fathiyah does not violate this article since she was not absent from Jerusalem more than seven years and there is no evidence that she gained a citizenship status in any country, the court reported that since Fathiyah stayed out of the country for six years with her husband and children she lost her right in "permanent residency" in Jerusalem and that Article (11/A) is not considerable to the court.

"Emphasising the illegality of practising the Israeli law in Jerusalem, we view this decision as a violation to all human rights, and stress the following: — The significance of rejecting the decision against Fathiyah which deprived her of right in residency and life in Jerusalem; — The right of "citizenship in Jerusalem" is a natural right of all Jerusalem Palestinians and it could never be denied by any body; — "The citizenship right of Palestinians in Jerusalem is natural and it could never be invalidated by any Israeli legal or political decision; — "Forcing Jerusalem Palestinians to live out of Jerusalem as a result of Israeli violations does not justify stealing their natural right in citizenship in their city.

"We call upon all countries and governments of the international community specially the consponsors of the peace process and all international organisations and institutions, specially those concerned with human rights, to support Palestinians in Jerusalem to sustain their, civil, political, historical, and religious rights in their holy city."

'Force 17' To Play Role After IDF Redeployment

TA2406122395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1000 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] sources say that Force 17, 'Arafat's presidential guard, will have a prime role in guarding activities after redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Judaea and Samaria.

The Likud says the government's intention to introduce Force 17 in towns in Judaea and Samaria instead of Israeli soldiers will endanger not only the Jewish residents but all citizens of Israel. The government's hypothesis that terrorists will protect Israel against terror is absolutely political bankruptcy, the Likud says.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Minister Denies Secret Contacts With Israel

MM2706080395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 24 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syrian Information Minister: Rabin Needs Our Vote in Elections in Order To Return to Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman stressed the night before last Syria's continued denial of any secret contacts between Syrian and Israeli officials, whether in the past or now. He said that the contacts are always conducted in Washington and under U.S. sponsorship.

Dr. Muhammad Salman — who was speaking in Damascus to a delegation of the Cairo-based foreign correspondents association which is visiting Damascus to explore Syria's official position on the peace process and the atmosphere regarding the next Washington negotiations — said that "the U.S. initiative concerning the peace process, which was launched in Madrid, is based on an international rule, and the resolutions of international legitimacy are clear. Namely, it is impermissible to occupy others' territory by force. Thus if there are secret talks violating this rule, everything will be subject to bargaining, hence freeing Israel from the resolutions of international legitimacy, exactly as happened between it and Yasir 'Arafat, where the points of disagreements are more than the points of agreement. And the talks between them will take many years, hence causing the state of peace to be infiltrated. Thus peace should be built on clear and sound foundations. This is why Israel is seeking secret talks with Syria, but Syria always insists on implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy."

Asked whether the time factor in terms of the Israeli and U.S. elections is playing a role in advancing the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, he said: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reached power under the peace slogan, but what he has achieved so far does not guarantee a minimum electoral success in the future. Murder incidents in Israel have increased 10-fold under the Oslo agreement.

The Syrian information minister pointed out that "Rabin needs the Syrian vote in the elections so that he can return to power. This vote would support him when he withdraws from Syrian territory and when he achieves a just peace. This is why we have from the outset said that peace must be comprehensive. Thus we link the Syrian and Lebanese peace track to Israel's withdrawal from the two countries' territories it is occupying."

Asked whether, if Syria does not help [in this process], it will face a difficult option, Dr. Salman said: Israel as

a whole is talking about peace. And peace is not only a Syrian and Israeli pursuit, but an international wish for all world peoples, especially the peoples to which you [addressing the journalists] belong. If the Likud comes [to power] and rejects peace, you will definitely side with the Arab side against those who do not want peace.

Asked whether there is a balance between the Likud and the coalition in Syria's favor, he said: Syria is seeking peace. And it supports any party that achieves this peace. Because peace is a strategic option for Syria. This is why it has cooperated with the United States and Europe to achieve this peace. U.S. and European officials always after their visits to Syria stress that President al-Asad has a profound desire to achieve peace. And we daily — through our media — criticize hardliners on the Israeli side.

Dr. Salman urged foreign journalists to spotlight those who are putting obstacles in the way of peace. He added: Syria blesses and encourages any step toward peace. This is why when Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the Golan is Syrian, all Syrian media services spoke about what he said. We encourage any positive steps by the Israeli side.

When one of the journalists repeated the question concerning the time factor vis-a-vis the peace process, especially as the U.S. interest will begin to focus on domestic matters, and whether this factor will be used to exert pressure to speed up peace steps, Minister Salman said: Syria has never obstructed or worked against peace. Nor is it seeking to make gains at Israel's expense. All it wants is the implementation of the UN resolutions. Anyone who wants a real peace should not seek to profit at others' expense.

Asked whether the Washington military negotiations will be decisive, whether the negotiations will broach the number of the troops and details of the redeployment, or whether the two sides are going to discuss other issues, Dr. Salman said that the military officials will follow up the principles that have been agreed. It all depends on the Israeli side. The principles are very clear. There is the principle of balanced and equal security arrangements. The question is: Will Israel agree to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 border, and will it accept the security principles? Then, matters would become decisive in the peace process and the negotiations.

Algeria

Zeroual Calls Mubarak After Assassination Attempt

LD2606215695 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, had a telephone conversation with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after his return to Cairo following the unsuccessful assassination attempt against him in Addis Ababa today.

Mr. Liamine Zeroual expressed his strong condemnation of this base terrorist action and conveyed to his Egyptian counterpart his satisfaction at the happy ending to the incident.

French Aid Said Not Linked to Government's Line

MM2606091795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din: "Paris: Support for Algeria Continues Without Being Conditional on Any Political Measure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — AL-HAYAH has learned from a responsible French source that France will continue to provide economic and financial aid for Algeria without linking that to any political measure by the Algerian Government.

The source emphasized that France wants to help the Algerian people and that cutting French aid or using it as a pressure card would only aggravate the misery and social deterioration in Algeria, something France does not wish to see.

He also said that President Jacques Chirac is determined not to interfere in Algerian internal political affairs and that is why he did not announce any official position on the presidential elections scheduled to be held in Algeria.

He added that the general view regarding these elections is that they should preferably be open to the main Algerian parties including the Islamic parties, to give the elections more credibility.

He said that France would advise the Algerian authorities to allow the opposition self-expression and freedom but would not in any way link that to France's economic and financial aid for Algeria.

On the current situation in Algeria, the source said that despite the events witnessed in the country, the state and its institutions are still solid and effective and Islamic terrorism is declining.

The source confirmed what U.S. responsible sources had told AL-HAYAH about France and the United States making preparations for a dialogue on political Islam between Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, and Denis Bouchard, head of the Middle East and North Africa section at the French Foreign Ministry, with the aim of clarifying each side's views on issues of political Islam in general, and in Algeria in particular because of the importance of that issue to France.

Authorities' Negotiations With FIS Falter

MM2606152595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Negotiations Falter After Rejection of FIS Suggestion of Presidential Council and General Amnesty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, AL-HAYAH — One of the military members of the delegation holding negotiations with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders Abassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, and Abdelkader Hachani has revealed that the "meetings" held between the two sides over the past two weeks "faltered" as a result of the authorities' rejection of the [FIS] leaders' demands.

He said that the FIS leaders' terms were related to the question of the creation of a presidential council to include the "national covenant" parties, a representative of the military establishment, and a civilian representative, provided it is headed by Dr. Ahmed Taleb Brahimi. They also demanded a general amnesty.

Some sources have stated that some officers in the military establishment rejected these conditions and saw them as being "tantamount to handing over power to the (dissolved) FIS." The FIS leaders believe that "the first step should be a general amnesty for all the prisoners and detainees including the shaykhs."

The military negotiating team stresses that "such measures fall within the jurisdiction of the elected president."

It maintains that "the demands cannot be met before the presidential elections." It insists that the FIS should participate in the elections by supporting a candidate to be agreed upon. It has been rumored that, during the negotiations, the FIS leaders questioned "the government's intentions" because of the arrest campaign against FIS members, the Trade Unions Federation's move to declare a general strike (said to be designed to demonstrate opposition to contacts between the authorities and the FIS), the spreading of rumors about "imaginary demonstrations" in the east and west of the country,

the "provocative" increase of prices of essential goods, the absence of President Liamine Zeroual for over a week, and the "campaign" launched by the radio and television media against the FIS. These factors seem to have affected the "credibility of the negotiations," now seen by the FIS leaders as "a political maneuver to lure them in and then give national and international public opinion the impression that serious dialogue was taking place." Observers in Algeria expect a "qualitative" shift in the security situation in the wake of reports about "advanced weapons" reaching the armed Islamic groups via the Libyan-Algerian and Tunisian-Algerian borders. According to some sources, the armed groups are preparing to escalate their operations, attack power stations, burn down fuel stations, and destroy telephone networks.

TV Criticizes 'Misinformation Campaigns' by Press
LD2506212795 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The visit of the head of state to Egypt was crowned with the issuance of an Algerian-Egyptian joint press release which dealt with, in addition to the strong relations between the two countries, the condemnation of violence and terrorism and the killing of innocent people. The two sides also reiterated their satisfaction with the ever-increasing awareness of the international community of the need to exert efforts to end terrorism.

However, such international awareness of the phenomenon of terrorism is completely contradicted by the editorial line of a number of newspapers which have chosen jigsaw-like means to sell death.

For over a week now, the London-based AL-HAYAH has been, day in and day out, publishing reports which talked about a series of talks between the Algerian authorities and leaders of the banned party [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS].

AL-HAYAH was not merely happy with what it called a scoop; it went further: it has published a number of make believe analyses.

This is not the first time. The London-based AL-HAYAH has been trying to portray itself as a model daily which uses only authoritative sources, despite the fact that many of its sources were contradicting each other. Hence, AL-HAYAH has usually been quick to write a scenario about what it calls the negotiations with the Algerian authorities, only to contradict it afterwards.

Notwithstanding the above paper's claim to its right to inform the public, its enmity towards Algeria is apparent.

Moreover, its quasi-exclusive role to publish reports about the terrorists has made it a platform for agitation.

AL-HAYAH's preoccupation with the Algerian problem is merely a bid to forge for itself an image of a daily which comes up with scoops. And it does not matter if those scoops are mere lies as long as they will boost its circulation. [passage omitted]

Nonetheless, reliable sources have affirmed that a number of leaders of the banned party had contacted the presidency in a bid to revive the dialogue.

The presidency has, however, drawn up a number of principles for such a dialogue which must be respected. The head of state has repeatedly said that any talks must be preceded by a renunciation of violence and FIS acceptance of the principle of alternation on power and pluralism. And for the sake of argument, this is the required minimum.

The hodgepodge of arguments by Islamists in AL-HAYAH's pages could be another maneuver to revive the banned party, particularly at this stage when the presidential elections are drawing near and in view of the state's insistence on the need for the FIS to respect the above principles before any dialogue can take place and in view of its efforts to control the security situation.

These well-hatched maneuvers are not a stranger to Algeria; the latter has faced misinformation campaigns by the papers of French colonialism — they tried to propagate their one-sided claims. The message of the press should, however, be guided by its duty to respect only one point of reference: to be in the service of the homeland and public interest.

Security Forces 'Eliminate' 24 'Terrorists'
LD2606190495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released today by the security services said that 24 terrorists were eliminated during search operations by the security forces between last Tuesday [20 June] and Saturday in various areas of the homeland, including Algiers, Tebessa, Sidi Bel Abbes, Skikda, Relizane, Blida, and Oum El Bouaghi.

The security services' statement added that shotguns, automatic pistols, and a quantity of ammunition and documents were recovered.

Egypt

TV Rebroadcasts Mubarak's Airport News Conference

NC2606185495 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic
1100 GMT 26 Jun 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents at Cairo Airport upon Mubarak's return from Addis Ababa on 26 June — recorded; italicized passages in English; see Cairo Radio version, NC2606113095, run in 26 June NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT, pages 18-20]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] The Egyptian people were very upset when they heard the news [words indistinct].

[Mubarak] These things are to be expected. I saw those who fired at us. Facts cannot be hidden. I saw him firing and coming toward us. The car turned around, but nothing happened to it. I had a good driver, and the security guards immediately shot three of them. They got out of the vehicles but the circumstances were unusual. But these things do not shake us. There is great faith. Egypt is great. Whatever happens, Egypt will not stop its march and no Egyptian president will let his people down.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, we take this opportunity to ask Your Excellency to declare before your people and before the world the principles to which you adhere, the principles you believe were targeted by today's aggression.

[Mubarak] I want to tell the whole world — I have said this before — terrorism is an international phenomenon. Some countries, even in Europe, harbor terrorists. I repeat that they will pay a heavy price.

[Correspondent] What would you like to tell the Egyptian people at this time?

[Mubarak] I would like to tell the Egyptian people that Egypt is well, and will not be shaken by one, two, or three incidents. We must continue and resist terrorism, because this is in the interest of citizens.

[Correspondent] Mr. President [words indistinct], this warm welcome offered to Your Excellency today, especially by opposition party leaders.

[Mubarak] We in Egypt, are all working under Egypt's name. There is no opposition or non-opposition. We are all Egyptians. Anything that happened to an Egyptian president will shake and harm everyone in Egypt. We may differ and oppose one another, but when it comes to hard times, we are all one.

[Correspondent] People who do not understand Arabic in the West are still upset. They do not understand exactly how many people were hurt. We understand no Egyptians were hurt. And who do you think is responsible for this act?

[Mubarak] I cannot exactly tell you what nationality. But they are not, did not look like Ethiopians or blacks. There were about five or six. Some of them were on the roof of one of the houses, the others were coming in the street. Just after the airport. I left the airport. Suddenly I found a blue van blocking the road, and somebody just flat on the ground, and machine guns started. For me it was shocking; what is that? Then I realized that there are bullets coming in our car; it is an armored car. So I was not afraid at all that anything could penetrate. One bullet came in the glass, but there was no effect at all. The driver was an Egyptian; it was our car. I told them: Turn back to the airport. Just about 100, 150 meters from the airport. We returned and boarded our plane to turn back. They were about five or six of them. Some of them were releasing bullets from the roof of the houses on the way, others in the street. Three were killed by our security officers.

[Correspondent] Will you return, sir, to Addis Ababa?

[Mubarak] Why? [laughter] I am (?ready) to give you permission to go and replace me there. [laughter]

[Correspondent] We would like to tell you thank God for your safety. I am sure all our viewers want to make sure that you are safe. So what do you want to tell them?

[Mubarak] I am safe, thanks be to God. I am not nervous at all. I am very cool all the time. There is God, and nobody is going to live more than what is written by God.

[Correspondent] We all know that these few terrorist groups are perhaps behind this incident. However, will this incident — and we thank God for your safety — affect your thinking about the issue of democracy in Egypt?

[Mubarak] Democracy has no connection with this. Terrorism is terrorism. Democracy is our line. The supremacy of the law is our principle. Freedoms within the framework of the law and the Constitution are untouchable.

[Correspondent] What have you done with your valiant bodyguards, who killed three terrorists?

[Mubarak] In fact, I thanked them while I was on the plane. However, I will see afterward what I can do. I cannot tell you now.

[Correspondent] Can we know the names of these bodyguards?

[Mubarak] I see no need to mention names for the sake of the public interest. However, all of them — the team which was with me — disembarked. The Ethiopians put them in one car. They drove fast and began to fire. They killed the three who were near the car and the others, I think, escaped.

[Many correspondents ask questions simultaneously]

[Mubarak] Naturally, they did not expect that there would be shooting from our cars. They came as if they were on a picnic. They were surprised by the shooting and by the killing.

[Correspondent] ...and have they begun an investigation?

[Mubarak] I left them. We have people there who should initiate an investigation because this is no simple incident.

[Correspondent] In your speech before the African Summit Conference, you were going to speak on the issues of democracy, liberation, and peace. Will Egypt carry on its same policy, even in light of what happened?

[Mubarak] We will not change Egypt's policy because of this incident. We are building a country on democratic foundations. We respect the Constitution and the law. We do not anticipate changing our course because of one or two incidents.

[Correspondent] Could what happened today lead to the convocation of an international conference to combat terrorism worldwide?

[Mubarak] For years I have been saying terrorism is an international phenomenon. Whoever is sheltering terrorists under the pretext that they are unfairly accused will pay a high price — if not now, then later.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what do you say to the Egyptian people, who came out en masse to assure themselves of Your Excellency's safe return?

[Mubarak] I tell them I am grateful. I belong to the Egyptian people. I am their president. Let them rest assured that our peace, democratic, and economic reform policy is continuing; no one can stop it.

[Correspondent] *Mr. President, [words drowned out by other correspondents] in the past have accused Sudan and Pakistan, or said they harbor some extremist Egyptian factions. You have never said that about Ethiopia. Do you think that is a possibility?*

[Mubarak] *I do not believe that Ethiopia has any connection with these terrorists. But they may have gone to*

Ethiopia just for some action like this. But I do not think that they are staying there because there is no reason for them to stay there. Regarding Sudan, I would like to say that recently some weapons have been captured by the police; all machine guns were coming from Sudan.

[Correspondent] ...so far the nationality of those who were killed?

[Mubarak] I am unable to tell you their nationality so that I will not say anything wrong and accuse someone wrongly. But we will know their nationality today or tomorrow. The identity of those killed will be known. I heard that they also injured the Palestinian ambassador. He was there and they injured him. But I am not sure of that. The three killed by the guard officers were removed. The Ethiopian president told me: First we found two bodies, then we found a third.

[Correspondent] ...sure that they are not Ethiopians and not...

[Mubarak, interrupting] The one I saw did not look like an Ethiopian.

[Correspondent] Egypt's policy has always been not to track down terrorism abroad. Now after this incident will Egypt chase terrorism abroad?

[Mubarak] We do not want to intervene in the internal affairs of other states. We tell them: Be on guard, you have a group of terrorists. If they are not doing anything in your country now, a time will come when they will do something. Perhaps they will learn a lesson from the events.

[Correspondent] As regards the countries that harbor terrorism and are near Ethiopia and our region...

[Mubarak] ...Sudan is known. This is nothing new. The weapons seized two days ago all came from Sudan. They were brand new machine guns wrapped in paper and grease. They had not been used.

[Correspondent] News agency reports said it was possible you would meet with [Sudanese leader] al-Bashir and that there was some Libyan mediation to this effect. Was this taken into account?

[Mubarak] There was no plan for me to meet with al-Bashir or anyone else. However, when we enter the conference, the heads of state meet as heads of their delegations. It is illogical that I would shake hands with one and leave out another. These are personal matters. However, there was no program for a meeting with al-Bashir. There was a plan for such a meeting in Morocco but I declined because he did not want to visit me in my place of residence. And before that in Senegal, he did not want to come to my place of residence. [word

indistinct] because we are enemies. How long have we and Sudan exchanged charges about being enemies?

[Correspondent] Mr. President, [words indistinct] attempts to improve Egyptian-Sudanese relations which are indeed showing some indications. We see terrorists continue to infiltrate from Sudan. We also see weapons smuggling. Perhaps there is a strong possibility that some terrorists came from Sudan.

[Mubarak] Very possible, very possible, but I want to say: Sudan seeks rapprochement, but at the same time the al-Turabi front is working. A week ago, I received a head of state. He said he talked with al-Bashir and that al-Bashir said he has connections with al-Turabi. How? In other words, the state is something and al-Turabi is something else. In any case, I say Sudan as a people is good. The current phenomenon is strange. It is (?created) by the current regime in Sudan led by al-Turabi. Thank you.

Mubarak Addresses Government, Masses on Attack

Briefs Cabinet on Details

NC2706092795 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic
0700 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak to visiting Cabinet members at the al-Qubba Presidential Palace in Cairo — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. I thank our brothers in the Cabinet, led by [Prime Minister] Dr. 'Atif. I would like to say that these types of incidents can take place anytime. I am not scared by this problem. While in the Armed Forces, we saw many horrible things and faced death more than once. So it is not a problem. Neither this incident nor others will make me nervous. [passage omitted]

These were a bunch of thugs. We returned to the airport. Now that I recall all that happened.... [pauses] I got into my armored car at the airport. I tried to move, but the guard commander asked me not to because the guards were not yet permitted to leave. We sat in the car. They [the Ethiopians] caused a problem with the guards; they said not more than five pistols would be allowed, and so on. Anyway, the boys [guards] managed to go with all seven of their pistols. We moved the car; we saw the incident. People walked toward us to shoot, shooting started from above us, and the top of the car was hit by two or three bullets. I heard two bullets hit the side of the car, but they stopped there and nothing happened. As I was turning in the car, I saw the guards taking up certain positions around me and shooting. The Armed Forces have provided them with probably the best guns

in the world, although I do not know the exact type. I saw one of the attackers walking toward us with a machine gun. They were kids. He fell down. Of course, the other drivers from there [Ethiopia] left their cars and ran away. As for our brothers, what could they do? Some sat in their cars and others shifted into reverse. A quick decision had to be made. We turned back to the airport. Actually, the [Ethiopian] president was very shaken and upset. He asked me to calm down, I told him: I am very calm, don't worry about a thing, these things have no effect. They just fired some bullets. I asked him to get the plane ready so that I could return immediately. He showed understanding. On board the plane, I did not feel a thing.

It turned out that the villa had been rented to some Sudanese for some time, some say for four days, but it seems that it was longer than that. Some kids were staying there. They did not come out of the Palestinian Embassy; it was close to the Palestinian Embassy, but there is no connection. They say it is a very luxurious villa, which means that the rent is high. That is all. I returned here. The doctor asked to take my blood pressure. I asked him, what pressure? There is nothing wrong. Between the two of us, I was not shaken for a second, not at all. [Ministers] Zaki Abu-'Amir and 'Amr Musa and others were present. It is all a matter of fate. These things are in the hands of God. So it is not a problem. One should not be nervous, whatever the reasons may be. Some of the brother journalists say: The human rights groups are warning against random [arrests]. What random? We do not operate on the basis of sudden reaction. We have said that we have a Constitution and a law. He who abides by the Constitution and the law will have nothing to worry about.

Thank God. Our country is safe and it will continue the march. It will continue to resist terrorism and pursue democracy, and economic reform will not stop. Thank you very much. [applause]

Speaks to Crowd Outside Palace

NC2706080095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0718 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak from the balcony of the al-Qubba Presidential Palace in Cairo to the masses outside — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [prolonged shouts by the crowds] First, I would like to thank our brothers and sons, the citizens here today. [more shouts from the crowd] I thank you for the good feelings that I expect from our sons and brother citizens. But I want to

say something. Despite what happened, I will not be deflected from continuing to work for the interests of the people. [shouts and applause] Before this I dedicated my life to the Armed Forces. Afterward and through your willpower I assumed the Presidency. Since I assumed the Presidency I have been working for the interests of the people. [More shouts by the crowd] Any president in a country like ours, which makes decisions and has particular positions, must expect that people like this will try and break the country. This is all against us. But be confident that we will continue to work not only for our own interests, but for the interests of future generations. What we are doing now is for future generations. I will not hesitate. We will continue our political system. There will be no infringement of democracy or freedom or of economic reform, which is the lifeline of this country.

I thank you all. I know the sun is hot but I.... [Mubarak laughs, leaving sentence incomplete] If I could, I would shake hands with each one of you. Thank you. I wish you the best. I appreciate your feelings. We will continue to work together in the interests of the people. Thank you.

Vows Continued Democracy to Parliament

NC2706090495 *Cairo ESC Television in Arabic*
0755 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak to members of the General Committee of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council at the al-Qubba Presidential Palace in Cairo — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] First, I do not consider the feelings of the members of the General Committee of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council strange. They are natural. Even with the other members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council we are linked by bonds of brotherhood and friendship, regardless of our differences. Differences do exist, but they do not create grudges or hatred. It is natural for me to have such feelings.

But I want to tell our brothers that we will continue our democracy. We look forward to a future replete with freedom and guarantees. We will continue economic reforms. We will not change our course under any circumstances. We do not seek money, wealth, or prestige. I work for God and the homeland. This is true. Someone like me in this post, as long as he works devoid of any ulterior motives, considers himself to have dedicated himself to this country.... [pauses] I dedicated myself to the Armed Forces. I waged wars and saw horrible things. Regarding yesterday's incident, suppose I was hit.... [pauses] Truly, we are emotional. But Egypt

will not die. Egypt will never die. Egypt will continue. We lay foundations so that our country will survive. I work for the future, not for today or tomorrow.

We might disagree on some issues, but not to the extent of shooting each other. It is natural for us [to disagree]. For instance, someone once referred to the opposition. I told him: What opposition? The opposition is between ourselves, but we are all Egyptians. We all work for the interest of the Egyptian people, but I do not believe there is an opposition working for a particular group. We all work for the interest of Egypt. This is our goal. [laughter] [passage omitted]

I spoke with the U.S. President this morning. He was in San Francisco. He told me he was very disturbed and annoyed. He said he delivered a speech and mentioned the situation. He said he will work, follow up, and help to identify the criminals [words indistinct].

Praises Citizens, Stresses Democracy

NC2706085595 *Cairo ESC Television in Arabic*
0807 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Second speech by President Husni Mubarak from the balcony of the al-Qubba Presidential Palace in Cairo to the masses outside — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank you for your noble feelings. This is what I expect from our brother citizens and our sons. If such a thing happened in the outside world and the Arab world.... [pauses] I know the Egyptians' feelings are strong; this shows our people's mettle.

Despite everything, nothing will deflect us from national action, no matter how dangerous it is. You and I have the historic responsibility to build the future for coming generations. Some 10 or 12 years ago we started a strenuous effort together. We will continue to uphold democracy and freedom and we must continue with economic reforms because this is in the interest of the young and the future generations.

A minority might think that we will take measures after what happened. Why should I take measures against Egyptians? Absolutely not. We must work and cooperate for our country's interest, for Egypt's interest. We are doing our best for Egypt's interest and that of the Arab nation.

My only concern for you here is the sun. No value can be put on my gratitude, love, and feelings for our brother citizens. [shouts from the crowd]

I fear nothing but God [shouts of "God is great"]. Rest assured that I will continue to work for the

coming generations and for Egypt's stability to increase economic growth and to see to it, as far as I can, that each citizen has a dignified life. Thank you and God be with you.

Accuses Sudan's al-Turabi

NC2706100895 *Cairo ESC Television in Arabic*
0925 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Third speech by President Husni Mubarak from the balcony of the al-Qubba Presidential Palace in Cairo to the masses outside — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [prolonged shouts by the crowd] It is not strange for me to have this warm feeling toward my sons and brothers, the citizens. But without nervousness we must make sure that terrorism will never undermine Egypt under any circumstances. [prolonged shouts and applause] We must deal with them through the law; we will not deport [as heard] terrorists who want to assassinate people. The terrorists want to assassinate people. This is true.

Regarding yesterday's incident, I will offer you a few short words. What happened? A group of Sudanese individuals rented a villa on the road. It is said the villa's rent was very high. They rented it and sheltered the terrorists either on the instructions of the Sudanese Government, which I believe is unlikely, or al-Turabi and his group.

But one thing must be clear. The Sudanese people are very good people and are not terrorists like their terrorist leadership. I say this for the first time. They deny it. But this is a clear fact. What about the arms caches we found in Kum Umbu? The weapons were smuggled from Sudan. They say they do not have camps. They have farms and have tried to train individuals from Chad and Benin. They have tried to train individuals; they have told them they will give them scholarships to teach them agriculture. Al-Turabi teaches agriculture and terrorism.

Be confident that Egypt is strong with its men, firm with its sons. It will not be undermined by anyone. [crowd heard shouting: "One way or another, we will trample al-Turabi underfoot"]

We respect human rights — man's right to life, to work, to education, to health — but not the criminals and terrorists' right to life. This is our principle.

Be confident that the march of democracy and freedom will continue. The march of economic reform and development will continue despite the spiteful people. Egypt will remain strong.

I thank you. The sun is hot, but never mind. A thousand thanks.

Sudanese Embassy Refutes Mubarak Claims as 'Plot'

NC2706111495 *Paris AFP in English*
1037 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 27 (AFP) — Sudan said Tuesday [27 June] that Egypt's allegations that Khartoum was involved in an assassination bid against President Husni Mubarak were part of a plot against Sudan's Islamic system.

"The Sudanese government rejects the groundless and tendentious accusations against it and believes they are part of a plot targeting Sudan and its Islamic orientation," said a statement from the Sudanese embassy here.

Mubarak, meeting government ministers Tuesday, said that the house used by the gunmen who attacked him in Addis Ababa Monday "was rented by Sudanese."

The embassy statement said the Sudanese government "again deplores these attempts to create enmity (between Cairo and Khartoum) just as Sudan is seeking to improve the atmosphere and relations between the two countries."

The Egyptian accusations against Sudan were "incompatible with Sudan's policies of pacifism and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries," the statement said. The charges also contradicted Sudan's "policy of good-neighbourliness, notably with fraternal Egypt."

Mubarak pointed the finger at Hasan al-Turabi, the Islamic leader seen as a key influence on the policy of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's military junta in Khartoum.

Mubarak is waging a battle against Moslem militants trying to overthrow his government in a three-year campaign which has killed more than 800 people.

Council of Ministers Statement Condemns Attack

NC2606213995 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic* 2025 GMT 26 Jun 95

[Statement read by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif after a cabinet meeting in Cairo on 26 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Statement issued by the Council of Ministers after its meeting this evening.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If God supports you, no one can defeat you. [Koranic

verse] To Egypt's loyal and trusty people; to the most honorable and noble of men, the devoted son of Egypt, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak:

The Council of Ministers, which met today, very strongly condemns the evil attempt on Egypt's symbol and the leader of its march and his delegation in Ethiopia after his arrival there this morning to take part in the African summit meeting.

The Council announces to the whole world that the people of Egypt bow to God to express their thanks and gratitude for the safety of the man who stands for Egypt's hope and symbolizes its struggle and victory on the great day of the [1973 Suez Canal] crossing. The Council also announces that with great vigor and persistence the people of Egypt and its government will resist terrorism everywhere, wherever it may be, until it is uprooted so that the people of Egypt can live in peace and stability.

While the Council of Ministers confirms that it supports with great energy and determination freedom, democracy, and the supremacy of the law, it also confirms that the reform march led by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will continue until it realizes the great triumph on the threshold of the new century. It will not allow anyone whatsoever to hamper this march or harm the stability and security of the homeland.

While the Council of Ministers salutes the spirit of the Egyptian nation which expressed its loyalty to, patriotism for, and pride in President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, it considers this a new referendum on the loyalty of the Egyptian people, from all groups and sects, to the leader of their march. They will protect and guard him until such time as Egypt under his guidance realizes everything it aspires to.

While the Egyptian Government follows the investigations into this evil incident, it asks the Ethiopian authorities to exert all efforts to uncover the criminal plan which used the land of Ethiopia as the venue for its aggression. These people do not care about the excessive harm they have caused to the country that hosts the OAU and where the meetings of the African leaders and heads of state are taking place.

The Council of Ministers confirms that Egypt — both country and people — insists on putting an end to the terrorists abroad [words indistinct] until they are [word indistinct], particularly those operating outside Egypt, supported either by financing or training by foreign forces and states that target Egypt's national security.

The Council of Ministers confirms that the state authorities and constitutional institutions will continue their comprehensive confrontation with the elements of ter-

rorism and violence to protect the security and stability of the homeland. It asks the international community to confront the phenomenon of violence and terrorism and not to shelter its elements, proceeding on the principle that terrorism is an organized crime. Those who commit this crime must be tracked down, handed over, and not covered up.

The Council of Ministers asks all legitimate political forces as well as intellectuals and writers to shoulder their responsibilities, taking into consideration the dangers of the written word and its reflection on the image of Egypt at home and abroad. They should bear in mind that responsible and enlightened words contribute to progress and construction. While the Council of Ministers congratulates the people of Egypt on the safety of the leader of their march, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, it praises the behavior of Egypt's honorable sons who were accompanying the Egyptian delegation and their confrontation with the perpetrators of this criminal act. Their performance was characterized by courage and excellence. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take [Koranic verse].

Al-Baz Discusses Attempt on Mubarak, Peace Issues
NC2706072295 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2207 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA) — Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, stressed that the criminal attack on the Egyptian delegation led by President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa confirmed the strength and solidity of the Egyptian front. He said the incident is proof of its perpetrators' inability to penetrate the solid Egyptian front, so they exploited loopholes abroad. This strengthens our firm belief for the need to continue the process of building a modern Egypt and raising the new generations.

Speaking at a meeting tonight with the Greater Cairo youth members of the National Democratic Party at the Youth Secretariat Center, Dr. al-Baz viewed the treacherous attack this morning in Addis Ababa and praised President Mubarak's nerves, saying he was not shaken by the attack and showed his noble Egyptian spirit. [passage omitted]

He stressed that the incident reveals to friendly countries the danger of being lax with criminal terrorist elements whose objective is to usurp power from society and hand it over to a criminal group, bringing terrorism to society as a whole. He added that they use every illegal

means to achieve illegal aims, attacking the symbols of this authority. [passage omitted]

He asserted that what happened today will not affect the development plan, because there is a firm belief that development is a tool for eliminating terrorism.

He also asserted that Egypt is an indivisible part of the Arab homeland and we are bound together by unity of objectives, adding that every Arab country offers strategic depth for the entire Arab homeland.

He said a campaign by Egyptian and Saudi media could not affect the depth of Egyptian-Saudi relations, that pan-Arab security binds the two countries together, and that what happened could not create enmity between them, because this Arab country is our sister and partner and we are their partners in responsibility and have the same objectives.

He added that what Iraq did to Kuwait showed there is no alternative to collective security enjoying the international community's support. He said: Thank God we overcame its effects. But we are pained by the suffering of the Iraqi people and hope their crisis will be over.

He said the world has become blocs and it has become difficult to deal with individual countries.

On Israeli-Arab relations, al-Baz said the Jews lived with us in the past and there is no culture clash between us. He added: We can coexist with Israel as a state that will pose no threat to Egyptian or pan-Arab security, whether from the population aspect or even military superiority, which ended with the 6 October war. He said the elements of strength within Egyptian society are much stronger than in other societies around us.

He noted that the notion of a Middle East market was a mere idea, and not imposed on anyone. But, he added, I believe there must be an Arab market before the Middle East market is established. [passage omitted]

Labor Leader Grateful for Mubarak's Safe Return

*NC2606152395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1400 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA) — Labor Party leader Engineer Ibrahim Shukri has expressed his thanks and gratitude to God for President Husni Mubarak's safe escape from the sinful attack his motorcade came under in Addis Ababa this morning.

He said in a statement to MENA that this incident shows the importance of taking greater security precautions when the president visits such countries.

He added that the African countries in general are not places where one can have enough security. However,

what has happened shows that God helped the sons of Egypt who were accompanying President Mubarak to react to this attempt. "We thank God Almighty for returning our president to Egypt safely" he said.

Ibrahim Shukri, who was among those receiving President Mubarak upon his return to the homeland, said that as soon as he heard the report he contacted the office of Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the President's Office, and told the officials there that he wants to join the delegation receiving the president on his return home. That is the least I can do, he said, to feel reassured and to congratulate him on his escape from this incident.

Legal Team Departs To Conduct Investigation

*NC2706064695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0555 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — An Egyptian legal delegation left Cairo for Addis Ababa early this morning on a few days' visit to Ethiopia. The Egyptian delegation will take part in the investigation conducted by the Ethiopian authorities into the incident involving the motorcade of President Husni Mubarak and his delegation near the capital's airport yesterday.

Ethiopian TV Provides Details of Attack on Mubarak

*EA2606204795 Addis Ababa ETV Television Network
in Amharic 1730 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ethiopian security forces thwarted an attempt to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak by killing two foreign terrorists in Addis Ababa today. The attempt to assassinate the Egyptian president took place as he was heading from the airport to the conference hall soon after arriving in Addis Ababa to participate in the 31st OAU [Organization of African Unity] summit. Our correspondent, Hailu Tamirat, has the details:

[Begin recording] [Hailu] The incident occurred after President Meles Zenawi welcomed President Husni Mubarak, and he was heading from Bole Airport to the conference hall. Near the Palestine Embassy, the terrorists drove up in their cars — they had reached the main road from villages near the embassy. The terrorists, who numbered from seven to nine — whose nationality has not yet been established, but who looked like Arabs — killed two and wounded one security agent who tried to stop them from getting on the main road. They then blocked the main road and started heading for the presidential motorcade, when they were intercepted by security forces patrolling the area who killed two of them on the spot. The rest fled in one of the vehicles.

[Unidentified security agent] When they came to kill the heads of government and ministers, I fired from here and killed this one.

[Hailu] Are you the one who shot him?

[Security agent] Yes, I am the one who killed this one.

[Hailu] What was he carrying? Was he on foot or driving a vehicle?

[Security agent] He was on foot, carrying a collapsible Kalashnikov with two magazines, when I shot him.

[Second unidentified security agent] They were carrying collapsible Kalashnikov rifles with two magazines. The two of them were rolling on the ground like commandos. They came from this corner.

[Hailu] Were you here?

[Second security agent] Yes, I was here on top of the building.

[Hailu] What did you see from the top of the building?

[Second security agent] I saw that they — the enemy — came around the corner and opened fire. We were on top of the building, and when we saw them continue firing when the president arrived, I shot one down as he was heading for the presidential motorcade.

[Hailu] The police have revealed that they have seized one of the vehicles driven by the Arab-like terrorists, and another one in the compound of the house the terrorists rented in preparation for the attack. Two launchers with four rockets, two Kalashnikov assault rifles with two magazines each, two hand grenades, one pistol complete with ammunition, 830 U.S. dollars, and 12,395 Ethiopian birr were found in the Volvo and Toyota DX vehicles which were seized, according to the police. Very heavy detonators were also found, which reveals that the terrorists have a detailed knowledge of explosives. The vehicle which escaped during the shoot-out was found in the Kebena area in eastern Addis Ababa abandoned and blood-stained. The investigation and manhunt to apprehend the terrorists have intensified. The government has offered a handsome financial reward to anyone who gives information on their whereabouts, according to the police.

President Husni Mubarak returned home safely and unharmed following the attempted assassination. [end recording]

MENA Cites Eyewitnesses, Sources

NC2606165095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1540 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Jun (MENA) — Eyewitnesses have said that the failed attempt on

President Mubarak's life took place at about 0830 today, 30 minutes after the arrival of the president's plane.

The landing of the president's plane at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa had been delayed for 10 minutes to allow the arrival of Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi who was to receive President Mubarak.

The eyewitnesses say the attack took place 700 meters from the airport, and the sound of gunfire could be heard by those present at the airport.

They said seven bullets hit President Mubarak's car — three on the roof, three on the left side, and one in the rear. But no one in the president's entourage or his guards was hurt.

As a result of the attack, several cars crashed into each other. Because of this, a number of people accompanying President Mubarak had to return to the airport on foot.

The eyewitnesses said the president's guards fired a hail of bullets at the culprits. The fact that the region around the road taken by the motorcade is surrounded by woods, curves, and many narrow downhill areas helped the culprits hide and made it difficult to monitor any unusual activity.

The area also has few passers by, even though the Embassy of Palestine is located there. The incident took place in front of the embassy; Palestinian Ambassador Yusuf Rajab was there, and he was shot in the foot. Although the ambassador's family played down the seriousness of his injury, he was taken to the Russian Hospital in Addis Ababa, where he is still being treated.

Egyptian sources said that when the attack on President Mubarak's car took place, the president immediately instructed the driver to return to the airport. Airport procedures for the accompanying Egyptian delegation to enter Addis Ababa stopped, and preparations were made for the aircraft to return to Cairo immediately. Egyptian guards accompanying the president imposed tight security at the airport and surrounding area until the president returned, with God's care, to the homeland.

National Media Comment on Assassination Attempt

Support for Mubarak Voiced

NC2706064995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0510 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — The Egyptian newspapers today denounced the treacherous attack on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa yesterday. [passage omitted]

In an article headlined "Mubarak's Egypt," AL-AHRAM says: At the news conference following his escape from the attempt on his life, President Mubarak proved he is one of those men of genuine mettle who are not shaken by ordeals or crises. On the contrary, such men become stronger, firmer, and more resolved. [passage omitted]

AL-AKHBAR says the aim of the terrible and criminal attack on President Mubarak was to plant backwardness and unrest and to destabilize Egypt and the Arab world. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH says all Egypt has denounced the treacherous attack on President Mubarak and has voiced support for him. It adds: Because he is a great man, he has not accused anyone. He said we do not interfere in the internal affairs of other states, but we draw the attention of some states to the existence of a group of terrorists in their countries who will resort to terrorism against these states, if not today, then tomorrow.

AL-WAFD denounces the criminal attack on the life of President Husni Mubarak. It says those who planned and perpetrated this criminal act wanted to drown Egypt in a sea of terrorism and blood. [passage omitted]

Nation 'Greatly Shocked'

NC2606155395 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Egypt Will Not Abandon Its Principles Despite the Hatred of the Rancorous and the Bullets of Hirelings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The African people, indeed all peoples of the free world, have been greatly shocked by the sinful, criminal, unsuccessful aggression against the Egyptian delegation, led by President Husni Mubarak, to the Addis Ababa summit. The aggression was carried out after the delegation's arrival in Addis Ababa this morning. It is not strange for the world to be shocked at this news. President Mubarak is not only the representative of the people of Egypt, with all their Arab and African originality and their important role in the international arena, he is also one of the prominent world leaders who devote all their efforts to serve their peoples and lead them to join the march of the developed countries. Mubarak also strongly defends the causes of his nation and continent in all international forums.

In an attempt to understand this lowly criminal act, we say: First, it is a continuation of all previous criminal attempts made against the people of Egypt in the past to shake our domestic security and stability and obstruct the march of economic reform, which the people of Egypt, under Mubarak, have carried out for several

years to take the country to the shore of economic security.

Second, the attempt on Mubarak's life is a direct stab at the African summit, seeking to ruin it. Consequently, it is a direct attack on all the African leaders who are eager to serve their peoples. It is also an attack on all the peoples of Africa, who pin great hopes on the Addis Ababa summit, especially concerning the economic problems from which the sons of the dark continent are suffering. It is also an attempt to undermine African solidarity.

Third, the criminal attack on Mubarak's life is a desperate attempt by hired criminal gangs working on behalf of foreign forces to obstruct Egypt's leading role in Africa.

Fourth, this cowardly action stresses the failure of all futile attempts by hostile regimes and their hired agents to infiltrate Egypt and undermine its security and the strong unity of its people. This is what prompted those criminal forces to carry out the sinful attack on President Mubarak's motorcade in the Ethiopian capital.

The Egyptian Arab-African people, who have chosen the hero of the October war to lead their march, want to tell those cowards and all the forces standing behind them and supplying them with money and weapons that Egypt will never abandon its Arab and African role and its defense of the causes of its nation and its continent, no matter what the challenges. On the contrary, this base, cowardly aggression will strengthen our determination to continue shouldering our historic and pan-Arab responsibility and the pioneering Arab and African role for which Egypt is qualified. Mubarak will always remain a symbol for all Egyptians in his struggle for freedom, justice, peace, and development.

May God grant you safety, Mubarak, and may the people of Egypt, who are united behind you, be safe. Shame and ignominy to those cowardly hirelings and those foreign forces standing behind them. God will always protect the people and the President of Egypt so that they can continue the march of freedom, democracy, peace, and economic development and ensure a dignified life for its sons and a bright future for coming generations.

Regional Officials Congratulate, Praise Mubarak

Former Sudanese President Numayri

NC2706091095 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 0852 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — At the Republican Palace in al-Qubbah this morning President Husni Mubarak received former Sudanese President

Ja'far Numayri, who congratulated him on his escape from the treacherous attack in Addis Ababa yesterday.

Numayri said Mubarak's safe return to Egypt represents stability for Egypt and the whole Arab region.

Omani Sultan Sends Message

NC2706075295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0725 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today received a message from Sultan of Oman Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

The message was delivered by Sultan Qabus' adviser 'Umar al-Zawawi when President Mubarak received him at the Republican Palace this morning.

Al-Zawawi conveyed to President Mubarak the congratulations of Sultan Qabus and the Omani people and their joy at his escape from the failed attack on his motorcade in Addis Ababa yesterday.

Two U.S. Tourists Die in Land Mine Blast in Sinai

NC2706103095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1008 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — Two U.S. tourists, a man and a woman, were killed near Sharm al-Shaykh in Sinai when their car struck a land mine left over from previous wars.

An authoritative source in the Interior Ministry said a land mine exploded under the tourist's car, license no. 746 al-Jizah, while they were passing through Nabq Natural Reserve Park, 40 km from Sharm al-Shaykh.

The source said the incident resulted in the death of American nationals Horace and Patricia [names as received]. The car's driver and the Egyptian guide were injured and taken to the hospital.

Police went to the scene of the incident and began an investigation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls Mubarak After Ethiopian Attack

LD2606121995 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution today telephoned President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. He congratulated Mubarak on his escape from the treacherous attack carried out this morning against the Egyptian delegation he was leading to the Addis Ababa African summit.

Official Assails Western 'Psychological Warfare'

LD2306203895 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1815 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 23 Jun (JANA) — Brother Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, made the following statement to JANA:

Western circles, which have been implementing a plan to swallow and occupy the Arab homeland, have been tirelessly trumpeting claims and allegations aimed at misleading the Arab public opinion and spreading defeatism among the Arab nation through their wicked and crusading psychological warfare.

However, the problem has not only been confined to the usual information channels, like the radios of the U.S. and English intelligence as well as the radio and the information channels of the Israeli enemy, it has spread to Western powers' officialdom and to the statements of a number of Western officials for the same purpose.

Thus, the radio of the English intelligence, which is known as Radio London [BBC World Service], broadcast a statement on 17 June made by the Spanish minister for international cooperation, which he made at the end of his visit to the Israeli enemy, claiming the existence of tripartite plan under examination by the Israelis and the Spaniards on the one hand, and the Tunisians on the other hand, to carry out agrarian projects inside Tunisia. However, the Tunisians publicly denied such claims.

Reports like this one reaffirm the existence of misinformation campaigns being propagated by Western circles and their information channels. They also expose their dangerous intentions and their wicked practices.

Technical Cooperation With Iran Reported

LD2606173295 Tehran IRNA in English
1714 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — The Iranian Ambassador to Libya, Nuri-Shahrudi, and the Libyan Communication Minister, 'Izz-al-Din al-Hinshiri, announced that both Iran and Libya have voiced their willingness to cooperate together in the production of parts in the communication system. Both countries also agreed to cooperate closely in the manufacture of automobiles.

At this meeting, the Iranian ambassador expressed Iran's willingness to transfer its experience in the technical and industrial field to Libya. Shahrudi said that the relation between the two countries were "positive".

Sudan**Denials, Accusations Stem From Mubarak Attack****Government Denies Involvement**

EA2606163795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, has expressed deep regret over the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, today — particularly since this particular incident occurred during the convening of the African summit, which is a gathering of the sons of the African continent.

Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani denied in a press statement that Sudan was behind the attempt. He said Sudan was following with concern the investigations into the incident, and its repercussions. He said the effects on relations between the countries of the region would be grave. He said that it was natural that some quarters should use the incident for propaganda, to divert attention from the real motives behind it.

Opposition Group Blames Government

NC2606163495 Paris AFP in English
1502 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 26 (AFP) — A Sudanese opposition group accused the Islamic regime in Khartoum of being behind a failed attempt to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on Monday [26 June].

"All signs confirm the involvement of the terrorist Khartoum regime in this criminal act through its agents in the Ethiopian capital," the Ummah Party, one of the main northern opposition groups, said in a statement received in Cairo.

Declarations by Sudanese leader 'Umar al-Bashir that he would react "before the world" to a conference in Eritrea of groups opposed to his government "is the best proof" of his involvement, the statement said.

It said support by Hasan al-Turabi, the spiritual head of the Sudanese Islamic government, for "extremist factions in the Horn of Africa is also linked to this incident."

The party, whose leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been held in a Khartoum prison since May 16, called on the "international community to stand beside the Sudanese people to rid the nation of the increasing terrorism" of the regime.

Mubarak, after returning to Cairo immediately after the attack, said it was "very possible" that al-Turabi was involved in the attack.

Islamic Group Denies Involvement

NC2606163095 Paris AFP in English
1457 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, June 26 (AFP) — An Islamic organization headed by Sudanese spiritual leader Hasan al-Turabi denied he was involved in an assassination attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Monday [26 June].

The Popular Arab Islamic Conference (PAIC) dismissed as "nonsense" accusations by Mubarak that al-Turabi was involved in the attack.

The accusations "are nonsense and do not even deserve a denial," Idris Sulayman, the PAIC's executive director, told AFP.

Mubarak "was still in a state of confusion and did not consider carefully" his statements when he made the accusations, Sulayman said.

"Such an act is out of character for us as Sudanese," he added.

Mubarak told the press on his arrival in Cairo from Addis Ababa on Monday immediately after the attack that it was "very possible the terrorists came to Ethiopia through Sudan."

"Sudan is trying to improve relations (with us) but al-Turabi is acting otherwise," Mubarak added.

The Egyptian leader was in the Ethiopian capital for a summit of African leaders when unidentified gunmen ambushed his car.

Al-Turabi holds no official position in Sudan but is considered the spiritual guide behind the Islamic government, headed by General 'Umar al-Bashir, who came to power in 1989.

Mubarak suggested on Monday signs of a schism between al-Bashir and the PAIC head. He said a "head of state" had been told by al-Bashir that the general had "nothing to do with al-Turabi."

'Sources' Implicate Islamic Front

NC2706070295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2230 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Informed Sudanese sources in the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping in Asmara revealed that Hasan al-Turabi's government is fully implicated with the

terrorists who carried out the failed attack on the Egyptian delegation to the OAU summit.

In a telephone conversation with AL-AHRAM, which the paper publishes tomorrow, the sources said accusations point to Sudan, which has 2,000 km of open border with Ethiopia that is without any guard or complete control, thus making it easy to smuggle out the weapons used in the attack, including anti-armor RPGs.

They said the plan was prepared some time ago and relied on the support of diplomatic bodies and Sudanese fundamentalist terrorist organizations inside Ethiopia, which obtained the time of the president's arrival, the time of his departure from the airport, and the route he would take through the embassies' quarters. They intercepted President Mubarak's motorcade with a Toyota Land Cruiser from which three people emerged and fired on the president's car.

The Sudanese sources told AL-AHRAM that the three terrorists were white, which meant they were from the north of Africa, not from the local area.

The sources revealed that there are large terrorist groups in east Sudan near the border with Ethiopia. They said terrorist Usamah Bin-Ladin recently bought the al-Jash agricultural project in the eastern area from the Sudanese Government and turned it into a terrorist camp for al-Jihad members.

Sudanese opposition sources noted that the Sudanese Islamic Front has an extensive presence in Addis Ababa through merchants and others, and their role in backing the terrorist operation cannot be ruled out.

Qatar

MENA Reports Heir Apparent's Assumption of Power

*NC2706053595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0520 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 27 Jun (MENA) — The QATARI NEWS AGENCY today reported that Qatari heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani has taken over as ruler of the country [taqallad al-hukm fi al-bilad] with the allegiance and backing of the ruling family and the Qatari people.

Qatari radio has reported that Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the new amir of the State of Qatar, will deliver a speech to the Qatari people later today.

Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani left Doha on 18 June on an official tour that took him to Egypt and Tunis, which he later left on a private visit to Europe. He is now in Germany.

Shaykh Khalifah assigned his son Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah, the heir apparent and defense minister, to run the country's affairs on his behalf during his absence. Shaykh Khalifah became ruler of Qatar in 1972 following its independence.

New Amir Addresses Cabinet

*NC2706093795 Doha Qatar Radio Service in Arabic
0858 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of the country, this morning chaired the second extraordinary meeting of the cabinet for 1995 at his office in the amir's court.

At the beginning of the meeting, his highness the amir, may God protect him, delivered the following statement:

[Begin amir recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God and God's prayers and peace be on God's prophet, our master and prophet Muhammad, and on his scion and companions.

Ministers, esteemed citizens. As you know, our country recently went through difficult circumstances that are not unknown to you and that have made it difficult for things to continue as they were. With deep regret, these circumstances forced me to decide, following the approval, backing, and support of the noble ruling family and the noble Qatari people, to assume power in the country in place of my father, who will remain the father of all, beloved, esteemed, and respected.

God knows that I have not sought to assume this position in this way out of ambition. No, by God. It is a responsibility and a heavy duty. I pray to God almighty to help me carry it out. But it was necessary for the sake of the homeland and its interest, which is my aim and objective after God's consent and before whom I pledge to do all I can for the sake of this homeland's dignity and progress and its citizens' prosperity.

Esteemed citizens, the State of Qatar will remain a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League, international organizations, and the United Nations and will continue to abide by every charter, treaty, and agreement concluded with the sisterly, friendly, and other countries. It will remain peace-loving and caring about its security and stability as well as the security and stability of the sisterly and friendly countries.

I pray to God almighty to keep you and me among those who are guided by right and who rule by justice and to give you and me success in serving the country and its glory. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be with you. [end recording]

Deposed Amir Claims Legitimacy

*NC2706153095 London MBC Television in Arabic
1504 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[Report by Muhammad Hunayfish in Geneva; monitored in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...a hotel in the heart of Geneva. MBC television was the first to receive the reaction of [deposed] Amir Khalifah in an official written statement. He said what his heir apparent did in Qatar today is unacceptable because he holds legitimacy in his own hands. The amir added: I am still the legitimate amir for the family, the people, and the Army. I will return to my country soon, no matter what.

He said he held telephone conversations with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council and some other Arab presidents. They expressed full support for legitimacy and denounced what happened.

A while ago, and while we were in the amir's office, his private adviser telephoned Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. There is now strict security inside and around the hotel where the amir is staying. Shaykh Khalifah is expected to make a statement to MBC tonight.

Consultative Council Supports Takeover

*NC2706113795 Doha Qatar Radio Service in Arabic
1107 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Consultative Council held an extraordinary session chaired by Speaker Muham-

mad Mubarak al-Khulayfi at noon today. Al-Khulayfi delivered the following statement:

[Begin al-Khulayfi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed brothers, God's peace, prayers, and mercy be upon you. On the occasion of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani assuming power in the country; in accordance with Article 56 of the temporary, amended statute of government in Qatar; and upon the request of the members of the Council, we summoned you to this extraordinary meeting.

Undoubtedly, we all appreciate the importance of this blessed step, which seeks to correct the difficulties our dear country has recently experienced. These situations forced His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani to assume rule in the country. We all express our support for his successful efforts and our sincere congratulations to him. We declare that we stand behind his wise leadership, looking forward to a bright and better future. Peace be upon you. [end recording]

Airport Said Closed; Forces on Streets

JN2706073095 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Qatari News Agency announced this morning that Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani has replaced his father in power after obtaining the allegiance and support of the ruling family and the Qatari people. The agency said Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah will address the Qatari people today.

It is noteworthy that Hamad's father is currently on a private visit to Germany. [passage omitted]

Doha sources said Doha airport was closed early this morning and all flights to and from Qatar were suspended. The sources added that the Army and security forces appeared on the streets in numbers larger than usual. They added that Shaykh Hamad had met with some foreign personalities in Doha, giving no details.

Troops on Saudi Border on Alert

NC2706113095 Paris AFP in English
1118 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, June 27 (AFP) — Qatar placed its troops on maximum alert along the border with Saudi Arabia on Tuesday [27 June], Arab diplomatic sources said.

The measure was taken at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT), shortly before the amir was ousted by his son Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani in a bloodless palace coup.

"The land borders with Saudi Arabia are closed, and the Qatari forces deployed on the border have been placed on maximum alert," an Arab diplomat said.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia have a long-standing border dispute which erupted into violence in September 1992 when two Qataris were killed in a clash.

An agreement brokered with Egyptian mediation has still not been implemented.

Another diplomat said the airport here was closed to international flights for three hours on Tuesday.

Officials View Economic Implications

NC2706110695 Paris AFP in English
1031 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, June 27 (AFP) — The bloodless coup in Qatar is unlikely to affect its oil exports and a huge gas project that will maintain the Gulf state as one of the wealthiest nations in coming years, Qatari officials said Tuesday [27 June].

Barring foreign interference, the country's oil policy will remain unchanged and the liquefied natural gas project that will utilise the giant North field will go ahead on schedule, the officials said.

"The crown prince has been the virtual ruler over the past couple of years. So I do not see any change in oil and other policies. Everything will remain normal unless of course there is foreign intervention," an oil ministry official told AFP by telephone from Doha.

The crown prince, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, ousted his father the amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani on Tuesday. The amir was visiting Switzerland after official visits to Egypt and Tunisia last week.

Experts said the coup would have no impact on the world oil market as Qatar is a small producer, with output of around 378,000 barrels per day set by a quota agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Its crude reserves are estimated at around 3.7 billion barrels and sustainable oil output capacity is projected to reach around 450,000 bpd by the end of 1995 and 600,000 by 2000.

The level is dwarfed by that of Qatar's giant oil neighbours — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — which control more than 40 percent of the world's crude and produce 17 percent of global oil supplies.

But Qatar is the third biggest gas power in the world after Russia and Iran, with reserves estimated at around 7.079 trillion cubic metres (235.9 trillion cubic feet).

This has tempted it to embark on the biggest LNG project in the region to utilise its North field, the largest natural gas reservoir in the world.

The project, involving Japanese, US and French partners, will eventually produce around 16 million tonnes of LNG annually at a cost of more than 10 billion dollars. Qatar has already signed long-term supply contracts with Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.

The project, to be completed in 2000, will fetch Qatar more than half its current oil earnings, offsetting a sharp decline in crude revenues due to lower prices and helping it to revive its economy.

"The project will proceed as scheduled. Our partners know well there is nothing to worry about," a Qatari official said.

Qatar, with an area of 11,437 square kilometers (4,575 square miles), has suffered from a deficit in its budget and balance of payments over the past six years due to lower crude prices. Bankers estimated its non-military debt at around 1.8 billion dollars at the end of 1993.

But the figure will sharply rise as it has just signed a two-billion-dollar loan agreement with a consortium of banks to finance the gas venture.

The fall in oil prices has also depressed Qatar's Gross Domestic Product in real terms to nearly 6.68 billion dollars in 1993 from 7.38 billion dollars in 1991, according to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Qatar's current account also suffered from a gap of around 265 million dollars in 1993 but the trade balance recorded a surplus of nearly 287 million dollars in the first half of 1994.

With a population of around 490,000, Qatar has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, standing at 14,020 dollars.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Congratulates Mubarak on Escaping Attack

LD2606123395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1150 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 26 Jun (SPA) — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of

the two holy mosques, at midday today telephoned his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The beloved king was reassured on the well-being of his brother President Mubarak, and congratulated him on his safe return to his country following his escape and the escape of his accompanying delegation from the abortive and odious attack against his excellency in Addis Ababa this morning. [passage omitted]

Yemen

GPC Elects Salih Chairman, Hadi Vice Chairman

JN2606152595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the slogan "The Fifth General Congress, a New Takeoff for Developing Organizational Structure, Enhancing Democracy, and Building New Yemen," the fifth general congress of the General People's Congress [GPC] resumed its meetings today.

The congress unanimously elected brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih GPC chairman, brother Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi vice chairman, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani GPC secretary general. [passage omitted]

President Denounces Attack on Egypt's Mubarak

JN2606125595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, held a telephone contact with his brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, during which he congratulated him on escaping the attempt on his life in Addis Ababa today.

The president expressed his regret over and strong denunciation of this terrorist attack. He said that our country denounces and fights all forms of terrorism from any source, out of the Republic of Yemen's concern for world peace and stability.

Assembly Debates 'Plan of Action' on Embargo

JN2506164495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1430 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA) — The Arab and International Relations Committee at the National Assembly held an expanded session today under Dr. Safa' Salih 'Umar, head of the committee.

During the meeting, the conferees debated the committee's plan of action on the levels of Arab and international parliaments to rally support for the people of Iraq, end the suffering of its children, women, and elderly people as a result of the unfair embargo, and work to have the embargo immediately lifted.

The committee presented the assembly's plan of action to hold a symposium for world parliamentarians in support of the Iraqi people. The committee also discussed two reports by the two delegations of the National Assembly about their recent visits to Turkey and Bulgaria and the talks with officials in both countries.

INA Says Next Phase of UN Relationship 'Decisive'

JN2506164995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0915 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA) — The contents of UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus' report have confirmed Iraq's positive trends, readiness to cooperate, and eagerness to avoid anything that might spoil the relationship with the United Nations or be exploited to maintain the aggression against Iraq.

Ekeus admitted that Iraq no longer possesses any [banned] weapons and that its programs have been destroyed. Iraq's approval of Resolution 715 of 1991 confirms that Iraq no longer possesses any biological weapons or weapons of mass destruction. This is because the resolution was passed after all that was not destroyed was surveyed, marked, and brought under inspection and monitoring according to the monitoring and verification plans.

The Special Commission declared that it destroyed 140 al-Husayn and Scud missiles, 18 mobile launchers, 40 fixed launchers, over 150 machines, and 15 buildings. Those equipment, weapons, buildings, and sites constitute all that Iraq used to possess in this field. [passage omitted]

Hence, the next phase of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council will be decisive. If Iraq does not expect the blockade to be lifted, then it will be difficult for it to justify the efforts, sacrifices, and costs resulting from such cooperation.

The Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency should inform the UN Security Council that the basic requirements for the implementation of Paragraph 22 have been fulfilled in the missiles, chemical weapons, monitoring, and the nuclear fields, and that Iraq is ready to address the pending issue of importance in the biological field.

Evidently, there is growing international will calling for fair, just, and balanced dealing with Iraq since it has honored all its obligations. It has become evident that Iraq will not be able to remain indifferent toward the practices of the Special Commission, which is being exploited by the U.S. Administration to execute its ambitions in the region.

Through its constructive and sincere efforts, Iraq has managed to expose the U.S. Administration's intentions and foil its schemes. It has also managed to win the world's confidence in it. The world states are now competing to sign various cooperation contracts with it in various fields.

Rape by 'Udayy Said To Spark Army Uprising

TA2606130795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Jun 95 pp A1, A8

["Exclusive" report by correspondent Ze'ev Schiff in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The rape by 'Udayy, Saddam Husayn's eldest son, of the daughter of an Iraqi Army general is what sparked the chain of events that led to the outbreak against the Iraqi regime 10 days ago. The uprising was cruelly put out by Saddam's special forces. This was reported to the HA'ARETZ correspondent by Iraqi sources.

The sources said that contrary to previous reports, the uprising never attained the size of a vast coup in which an army battalion tried to seize a Baghdad radio station. It becomes apparent that the reports about the incorporation of army units in the revolt were exaggerated. At the same time, the outbreak in western Iraq is considered one of the most serious ever because it involved many civilians, all Sunni, and soldiers who serve in the Revolutionary Guards.

The sources that reported about the outbreak say that the career general reacted with great anger to the rape of his daughter, saying that the only way to rehabilitate his family's honor would be to kill 'Udayy, Saddam's son, as soon as he gets the chance. Besides serving as minister of sports and youth [title as published], 'Udayy is the editor of the newspaper BABIL and a television network director, and he heads a relatively new military

force called Saddam Husayn's Fedayeen whose role is to defend the regime.

This force arrested the general after he vowed to kill 'Udayy. Later, 'Udayy's loyalists murdered the general who comes from a respected family in the Dulaym area, also known as al-Anbar, in west Iraq. The general's body was sent to his family, and it was clear that he was killed by 'Udayy's men, which caused great anger among the residents of the area. In order to ward off any outbreak, several hundred members of Saddam's Fedayeen soldiers were sent to the township and started conducting random preemptive arrests, some of which were brutal and accidental street arrests.

Among others, the son of one of the leaders of the Ba'th party was arrested because he did not carry a document testifying that he was released from the Army. Only some of the several hundred detainees have so far been released from their interrogation. Clashes took place between local civilians and Fedayeen soldiers. The civilians were joined by soldiers from their families, but there were no reports about a rebellion by a military unit.

At the same time, another incident took place in the region's capital when the local imam who, apparently knowing about the incident, delivered a sermon in a local mosque in which he severely criticized the Iraqi police and secret police treatment of loyal citizens. He charged that the police are confiscating property and illegally collecting funds, saying that such acts contradict the way of Islam. The imam, who is famous among the local population and highly respected by them, was badly beaten on the same day by the secret police and hospitalized. This incident, too, yielded harsh reactions by the residents of al-Anbar.

The Iraqi sources said that many in Iraq have doubts about the extent to which Saddam can reign in his two sons, mainly 'Udayy, who in the past was responsible for the murder of one of Saddam's bodyguards. The recent outbreak placed Saddam's regime under no real threat and was not a preplanned attempt to harm him, as was the case 18 months ago, but it does indicate that there is unrest among his supporters which is expressed by, among other things, brutal operations against a civilian population for others to see and beware of.

Oppositionists Urge UN To Stop al-Anbar 'Massacre'

MM2606125495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
24 Jun 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Oppositionists Call for Action To Stop 'al-Anbar Massacre'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Some Iraqi oppositionists have sent a memorandum to the leaders of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and to the UN secretary general requesting "immediate action by taking stands and introducing urgent measures to force the Iraqi authorities to stop their crimes against the people of al-Anbar Governorate and to pass practical resolutions at the Security Council" on this matter. The memorandum, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH yesterday, accused the Iraqi authorities "of carrying out a massacre in which dozens of people from al-Anbar were killed and thousands arrested or made homeless. The governorate came under siege and the people of al-Anbar were denied food, medicines, water, and electricity, the aim being to liquidate them." Washington had confirmed that there were arrests in the governorate where the Sunni tribes of al-Dulaym live and that a military rebellion in Baghdad was "crushed."

The memorandum was signed by Muhammad al-Badri, Ahmad al-Habubi, Sa'dun al-Dulaymi, Sa'dun al-Qassab, Malik al-Yasiri, Muhammad al-Alusi, Fulayh al-Sammarra'i, Husayn al-Juburi, Ihsan al-Shaykh 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Fu'ad al-'Ani, 'Abd-al-Razzaq Ibrahim al-'Ali, Tariq Shafiq, Ahmad Mazlum al-Dulaymi (brother of Major General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi), 'Abd-al-Halim al-Ruhaymi, Kazim al-Raysan, Kazim al-Hadhdhaf, Najm 'Abd-Karim, 'Aziz Qadir al-Samaniji, Husayn al-Rukabi, 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Qattan, Hashim al-Shabib, Wafiq al-Samarra'i, Arshad Tawfiq, Kazim Kammunah, Shafiq Ibrahim 'Ali, 'Ala' al-Din al-Mu'allah, 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hasani, 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Bayati, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Miyahi, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid, Mazhar al-Naqshabandi, and Sa'd Salih Jabr (chairman of the Free Iraqi Council).

Meanwhile, Mojahedin-e Khalq, the Iranian opposition organization, has stressed that claims of its participation in the recent clashes in Iraq and its fighters' control of a part of the roads between Iraq and Jordan "are untrue."

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IRAQ

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Minister Calls For Release of Assets Abroad

JN2706101095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
14 Jun 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and chairman of the Council for Protection of Environment, has called upon world organizations to tackle the deterioration of the environment in Iraq as a result of the criminal 30-state aggression and the continuation of the crime of the unfair blockade.

In a cable to the executive director of the UN Program for Environment on the occasion of World Environment

Day, Dr. Mubarak outlined the dimensions of this deterioration, which is represented by an increase in the rate of pollution and poor functioning of electricity and water treatment services. All this, he said, has led to the spread of infectious diseases and consequently the rise in mortality rates, especially among children, old people, and patients.

Dr. Mubarak called for the release of frozen Iraqi assets in world banks so that they can be used in health care and humanitarian fields and the improvement of the environment.

Rabin: Syria Will Be Judged by Actions, Not Words
 TA2606155595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
 1500 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says the Syrians have informed him through the Americans that the understandings reached after Operation Accountability are valid. I told the Americans we shall judge them by actions, not words, Rabin said. He was speaking to the Labor faction in the Knesset.

He added: Israel had made demands on the Syrians regarding Hizballah and the issue will be raised in tomorrow's meeting of the chiefs of staff in Washington. Rabin also said the battle is now over the security zone and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] are full partners in the struggle against Hizballah. Recently IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces had been sent to SLA positions to make this partnership clear to them, Rabin concluded.

Peres Views Negotiations With Syria in U.S.

TA2706065795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
 0400 GMT 27 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Amnon Shahaq will tell Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat Shihabi that even during peacetime, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must remain on the western slope of the Golan Heights. That is a very similar position to that presented by former Chief of Staff Ehud Barak in his meeting with Shihabi six months ago, following which the Syrians stopped the talks. Are we therefore not naive in thinking that they will accept our position this time?

[Peres] I am not sure he will say that to them. Everything reported in the newspapers is pure speculation. I think the aim is more general. The aim is to see whether we can reach security arrangements which permit the general opening of negotiations, because there is no doubt that the security aspect is the focal point of our considerations. It is an important start to a long and difficult path. What we should expect from the meeting is an opening.

[Friedman] But we seem to be putting the cart before the horse. How can we discuss security arrangements without discussing the territorial aspect? Early warning stations, soldiers, patrols, demilitarized zones are stationed on the ground.

[Peres] That is true, but we said we have not ruled out the possibility of a withdrawal on the Golan Heights although we have not informed the Syrians what the

final withdrawal line is. I do not think we will do it at the outset of the negotiations.

[Dan] In other words, it is not going to be much more than what YEDI'OT AHARONOT commentator Nahum Barne'a today called a mutual seminar on military problems between the two chiefs of staff.

[Peres] No, seminars are when you listen to lectures. Here, the lecturers will try to bridge gaps and form a consensus. Therefore, it is not a seminar, but a teachers' meeting to discuss the curriculum.

[Friedman] Yitzhaq Rabin said that the Washington talks will be based on several scenarios of an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Is there an Israeli scenario of a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan?

[Peres] I do not think we will present such a scenario to the Syrians today.

[Friedman] When will we present it?

[Peres] I do not know if we will present it at all. But you do not start negotiations with such a scenario.

[Friedman] Yes, but we know that the Syrians will quickly reject all the minimal scenarios....

[Peres, interrupting] Then we should be patient.

[Dan] Will the demand that the Syrians restrain Hizballah activity have an ultimatum-like aspect?

[Peres] Negotiations do not comprise ultimatums, but are an exchange of positions. In fact, there is an American-Syrian agreement on the rules of behavior in Lebanon's security zone. We first and foremost expect them to abide by what has been agreed to between the sides.

[Dan] But, in the final analysis, we sound like bores by not hardening our positions.

[Peres] Calling a position an ultimatum does not change matters. Ultimatums have a meaning when you say: If you do accept my position, I start to fire. I do not know of anybody who suggests starting negotiations that way. It is not a matter of hardening positions by changing the headline of the request. Ultimatums mean either you do what I tell you, or I will go to war against you.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, while you spoke with Ya'el about Hizballah, I thought about your remarks about the security arrangements. What I understood was that the Israeli opening position of the renewed negotiations is that Israel will not withdraw from the entire Golan Heights. Is that correct?

[Peres] Under no circumstances will Israel present at the outset of the negotiations the final withdrawal line.

[Friedman] In other words, the Syrians can understand at the opening that that is not Israel's final line and that Israel can be pushed further west.

[Peres] I suppose the Syrians will understand at the outset of the negotiations that the final line will be presented only at the end of the negotiations.

[Friedman] Had the assassins succeeded in killing the Egyptian president yesterday, would the peace process with the Palestinians, Syria, and the other partners have been irreparably damaged?

[Peres] It is a peace between nations. We are very happy that President Mubarak was rescued. I do not want to speculate what would have happened otherwise. There have been precedents. Al-Sadat contributed a great deal to peace and yet President Mubarak took the reins and held them very tight and very well. Had the assassination succeeded, it would have been an enormous success for terrorism. There is currently a clash not only between Jews and Arabs, as was previously the case, but between peace and those who want to murder it. Success for murderers' action is success for those who oppose peace.

[Friedman] To conclude, may I ask you a personal question?

[Peres] Yes, sure.

[Friedman] Do you not sometimes feel threatened, or a target for bullets by potential assassins as a leader involved in controversial actions?

[Peres] Those who are afraid cannot play a role. I do not act out of fear; I do it out of deep internal conviction knowing full well that there are some things greater than me, and that each of us would do well to serve a cause greater than his own ego and his personal fear. From that viewpoint, I am at peace with myself. What eats me up is the problems and not the fears.

Shahaq Explains IDF's Position on Withdrawal
TA2706070495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
27 Jun 95 p A1

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq will today present to Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat Shihabi the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] position regarding an arrangement on the Golan Heights, according to which the IDF must remain on the Golan Heights even during peace, near the western edge of the Golan Plateau overlooking 'Emeq Hula.

This position contradicts that of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who has spoken about an Israeli withdrawal to the international border.

Prior to his departure for Washington, Lieutenant General Shahaq held a coordination meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister. Shahaq explained the IDF's position is that from the military point of view the IDF must preserve the western edge of the Golan Plateau. The prime minister permitted the chief of staff to present this position to the Syrian chief of staff.

The two also dealt with the IDF's positions regarding the security arrangements issue. One of the IDF's principles is that the scope of the arrangements depends on the depth of withdrawal. If the IDF's withdrawal line leaves Israel in the vicinity of the western edge of the plateau Israel will apparently be less firm regarding some security arrangements applying to the depth of Syrian territory.

The chief of staff's position is basically similar to that of his predecessor Ehud Barak, who presented a similar position in his meeting with Shihabi in Washington last December. Barak also said that military considerations suggest the IDF should remain deployed along a certain line on the Golan Heights. At the same time Barak raised the possibility that if an Israeli early warning station is left on Mount Hermon, Israel will agree to discuss the establishment of a similar Syrian station in the Galilee. He also discussed other mutual military arrangements Israel is willing to propose.

Major General Dani Yatom, the prime minister's military secretary, attended that meeting and will also attend the Shahaq-Shihabi meeting. He is then slated to participate in talks with Syrian officers over the security arrangements.

After the December 1994 meeting, the Syrians claimed Barak presented a rigid position and decided to discontinue the talks. Consequently the talks were suspended for several months, until the Americans managed to reach an understanding with Syria and Israel over the security arrangements principles. This understanding brought about the decision to resume the chiefs of staff talks and the ambassadors meetings later on.

The IDF position, which has been reformulated by Shahaq, was determined following discussions of various military elements. Major General Ilan Biran, the present commander of the Central Command, previously did intensive work on the Golan Heights issue.

The withdrawal line of which the IDF is talking starts at Mount Hermon in the north and ends at Afik in the southern part of the Golan, some 500 meters above the

Lake Tiberias and approximately six kilometers west [as published] of the lake. This way it will be possible to defend the lake as well. The central part of the line leaves most of the Israeli settlements on the Golan outside the Israeli area. The most western point along the withdrawal line proposed by the IDF overlooks 'Emeq Hula from above the western edge of the plateau.

In the previous chiefs of staff meeting, Baraq said this was the IDF's position, but added that the governments will make the final decision on the basis of wide considerations which are not only military in nature.

'Aqiva Eldar adds: The deterioration in Hizballah's behavior will be raised during the Shahaq-Shihabi meeting today. An Israeli source in the delegation for peace talks with Syria said he does not rule out the possibility that the katyusha attacks are related to the political developments on the Syrian track, because most of the equipment reaches Hizballah via a Syrian airport and the katyushas are being launched from Syrian-controlled territory.

The Israeli source said Israel will propose to the Syrian delegation to immediately introduce military confidence-building measures between the sides, such as a mutual liaison apparatus and a system for announcing maneuvers and exercises, or an open phone line in al-Qunaytirah of the kind in use for years on the Allenby Bridge between Israel and Jordan. Another possibility raised is sending officers from both sides to join the UN mission monitoring the separation of forces on the Israeli-Syrian border.

Labor, Likud Figures Urge Freezing Talks With Syria

TA2506095195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Jun 95 p 3

[Pool report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has instructed Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, the chief of staff, to raise the issue of terror from Lebanon in his meeting with his Syrian counterpart, but not to turn it into a main issue, which might cast a shadow on the discussions on the security arrangements between Israel and Syria.

At the same time, over the weekend voices were heard in Israel, including from within the cabinet, urging Rabin to demand that al-Asad stop the Hizballah katyusha and terror attacks against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] as a precondition for the continuation of the negotiations on the Golan Heights.

Minister Shim'on Shetrit demanded that the talks with Syria stop immediately: "It is impossible to have

katyushas falling in the Galilee while peace talks continue in Washington. Did al-Asad not say he can prevent the firing of katyushas? Than let him do it. I used to say that we must not give Hizballah the right to veto the peace process, but this theory has failed. We will not agree to a situation in which al-Asad strikes the Galilee with katyushas five times in a month while we hold peace talks with him in Washington."

Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur also urged stopping the talks with Syria. According to Tzur, Syria must realize that terror attacks will affect the negotiations, and it must be made clear to the Syrians that Israel is holding them responsible for maintaining quiet on the northern border. "It appears that Damascus believes in just the opposite and that the Syrian president thinks that by employing terror he will be able to pressure Israel and score achievements in the negotiations. We must show him that he is mistaken," Tzur said.

The heads of the Labor Young Guard also appealed to the prime minister demanding that he relay a message to the Syrian president that says Israel will not agree to continue the negotiations over the Golan while under indirect Syrian pressure from Lebanon.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu called on the government to order the chief of staff, who is about to begin negotiations with his Syrian counterpart, to discuss stopping the Lebanese terror, that is controlled by Syria, as a precondition for any political negotiations between Jerusalem and Damascus. "Syria must learn to choose between peace and terror. No peace negotiations will be held for as long as children in the north sleep in shelters," Netanyahu said.

Knesset Member [MK] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Likud Political Bureau, said that the bureau will demand that the government freeze the political talks with Syria because it is activating Hizballah terror against the residents of the Galilee. "The government must stop groveling before Syria," Ben-Elisar stated.

MK Yehoshu'a Matza, chairman of the Likud Secretariat, said: "The recent firing of katyushas is yet another Syrian attempt to demand additional concessions from Israel. Syria is taking advantage of the government's haste and weakness and demands such concessions." [passage omitted]

Agreement With Syria Seen as Gain, Not Loss

TA2306160195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
23 Jun 95 p 5

[Commentary by Alon Pinkas: "How Not To Sell an Arrangement With Syria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] That the opponents of a peace arrangement with Syria use military terms fit for a junior officer was to have been expected and almost logical from the political point of view. The target audience of the intimidation rhetoric (described by Aluf Hareven as a nation "holding in its hand an atom bomb but being afraid of a pogrom") does not trust the Arabs and is scared to death of Hafiz al-Asad, who for years was depicted as one of the shrewdest and most cunning leaders in history. A people fearful and tired of wars is fair game for any manipulation that mentions Auschwitz as part of an arrangement with Syria. The Israeli people, just like any other nation, is made up of an assortment of emotional and sentimental individuals plagued with primeval fears and ignorant of national security issues.

Therefore, such a people can be easily sold the distortion of words such as "concession," "withdrawal," "defeatism," "weakening the army's opening positions," and "forsaking the north's security." Those who raised a nation on a garrison mentality and on seeing the world through the prism of commando units should not be surprised to find out that it is hard to sell an agreement with Syria that calls for strategic thought.

F-15's are great and so are MLRS's, Merkava-3's and the Ofeq-3, not to mention Apache helicopters and assault UAV's, and, of course, Dimona, the national tranquilizer. But what will happen to the Jewish state if Syrian tanks sweep down the Golan Heights?

The elements in a possible arrangement with Syria that should be debated are political and not military. Therefore, when Yitzhaq Rabin and other government spokesmen get dragged into a micro-tactical and immaterial military argument with the opposition and its recruited foot soldiers, that is no longer logical or wise, but proves that either the government is not entirely at peace with the policy it is seeking to implement or that its spokesmen do not understand the essence of the arrangement with Syria.

Rabin accuses Binyamin Netanyahu of having the perspective of a junior officer. The late Prof. Yehoshafat Harkabi cautioned against such an attitude and called it "the tacticalization of strategy"; namely, forming a concept or position on what is a strategic issue in terms of scope and depth — with the consequent implications on national security — as a result of narrow, parochial, and shortsighted perceptions fit for a junior officer

whose whole world is to defend a hill or conquer a trench.

Rabin is right. The problem is that his arguments are not devoid of "tacticalization" and that they leave the initiative in the hands of the opposition. On the one hand, Syria's ground-to-ground missile batteries — which have nothing to do whatsoever with the Golan Heights — are being portrayed as the main military threat to Israel. On the other hand, to the argument that ceding the Golan Heights would be fatal from the military point of view, Rabin and his spokesmen unanimously respond that "Syria made a strategic decision to go for peace," that the Golan will be "a painful but necessary concession," that "peace carries a price," that "the opportunity has been created to take risks," and that "al-Asad sticks to agreements." If these are the best arguments the government can come up with, it is no wonder that people are hesitant, confused, and hostile to any agreement which involves returning the Golan Heights.

An arrangement with Syria — assuming that Israel is convinced of the sincerity of al-Asad's political and strategic choice to forego the option of war, as the Intelligence Branch believes — would be a strategic achievement rather than a concession, a military gain rather than a loss.

Rabin has not yet spelled out the basic concept underlying his policy in a way that the people can understand. Demilitarization of the Golan Heights, early-warning stations, and artificial obstacles mean more, not less, security for Israel. This is an achievement, not "a painful concession." Territory has significance, but the best security arrangement is peace itself, also in terms of south Lebanon. If the Syrians plan a conventional attack on Israel, better to have a demilitarized Golan without an Israeli presence on it, than Syrian tank divisions 30 km from the headquarters of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] division at Naffakh. Moreover, the concept of the future battlefield for which the IDF is building and training its troops is such that from an operational and tactical point of view Syrian tanks "sweeping down the Golan Heights" would get trapped in one big killing field. The potential engagement line at the moment resembles the one in October 1973 more than it does the map of a possible arrangement which would demilitarize the Golan Heights and thin out Syrian forces from al-Qunaytirah to Qatana, south of Damascus, and all the way to Dar'a in southern Syria.

Israel, a nation in uniform where security is a central religious value and the be-all and end-all, has never lacked for soldiers who were in the general's tank and know exactly what happened where and when, officers

who know for a fact that Tall Yusuf is of decisive strategic importance and who know how hard it is to climb back the Golan cliffs.

But, it has always lacked for strategists who think about national security in the broadest and deepest sense of the word, in the political-diplomatic-geographic-cultural-economic sense; there have always been too few for whom the military component is only one variable in the national security equation: Yisra'el Tal, Yehoshafat Harkabi, Aharon Yariv, Ari'el Sharon, Ehud Baraq, and perhaps — on and off, and only in the last two years — also Yitzhaq Rabin.

If Rabin finds it difficult to talk like a statesman because he thinks the people will have a hard time understanding the complexity of the strategic advantages of the arrangement, let him speak like a general, but not like a politician who has just come back from doing his reserve duty on the Golan.

Rabin, Weizman Phone Mubarak After Assassination Bid

TA2606132195 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1200 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman phoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and told him he was glad that he had not been hurt in the assassination attempt. Weizman told Mubarak that he had followed the reports from Addis Ababa with concern. Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that President Mubarak noted that Weizman's phone call was the first he received from a foreign leader after the assassination attempt.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also congratulated the Egyptian president for having been spared in the attack. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin stated in a meeting of the Labor faction in the Knesset: The situation is clear to us, and we wish it were as clear to the Arabs and the whole world that Muslim extremists are backed by Iran and that they are the main enemy.

Third Infiltrator From Jordan Turns Self In

TA2606144795 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1400 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The third member of the terrorist squad that crossed the Israeli border from Jordanian territory last Saturday [24 June] has turned himself in, settlers in the Jordan Valley told our correspondent Gil Litman.

Since Saturday the terrorist has been hiding in Marj al-Na'ja, a Bedouin village north of Moshav Argaman

in the Jordan Valley. The terrorist is currently being interrogated by the security authorities.

A second member of the squad was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces on Saturday and the third also turned himself in.

Cooperation Announced With Jordanian Air Force

TA2606174895 *Jerusalem Channel 2 Television*
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli and Jordanian air forces will soon be connected by a direct phone line aimed at clearing up emergency problems. The two air forces will also cooperate in the field of flight security, will conduct joint search and rescue operations, and will pay each other mutual visits. These decisions were made recently in the meetings of the joint Israeli-Jordanian security committee.

This was reported in the new issue of BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR [the Air Force journal].

Closing of Qezi'ot Prison Urged; General Strike Called

TA2706085195 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0500 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There are currently 700 prisoners and detainees at the Qezi'ot detention center, compared to 7,000 at the peak of the intifadah. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is studying what to do with that camp within the framework of the issues being studied prior to the army's redeployment.

Knesset Member Dedi Zucker, chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, wrote to the defense minister that residents of the territories should not be kept at Qezi'ot because under international law inhabitants of occupied territories cannot be moved to the occupying country. He called for the dismantling of Qezi'ot, thereby doing away with one of the blatant symbols of the intifadah.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF has decided to improve prison conditions by increasing the number of visits and installing television sets.

A general strike has been declared in the territories today in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike. The prisoners' leadership said that any agreement reached between the Palestinian Authority and Israel on the release of prisoners requires its prior approval.

'Attalah 'Atallah, the official in charge of Palestinian security in the West bank, said that released prisoners who return to carrying out attacks will be arrested by his people. He spoke from Jordan with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Committee on East Jerusalem Building Meets

TA2706105295 *Jerusalem Government Press Office in English* 27 Jun 95

["Communicated by Finance Ministry Spokesman"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A special ministerial committee on Building for the Arab Sector in eastern Jerusalem, headed by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, met for the first time yesterday afternoon, 26.6.95.

The other members of the committee are: Justice Minister David Liba'i, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

The committee decided that the Jerusalem Municipality and the Housing Ministry would prepare a detailed document to serve as a basis for decisions regarding solutions for future building in eastern Jerusalem. The document is to take into account the needs of the population, which today numbers approximately 160,000, during the next few years.

The document will include: Land reserves in eastern Jerusalem; land ownership; land planning; present infrastructure situation; future infrastructure needs.

It should be noted that the Government decided to establish this special ministerial committee, following complaints that there are no possibilities of building in eastern Jerusalem, even though extensive building permits can be obtained.

The special committee will meet again in two weeks using the findings to be presented to it, as its basis for discussion.

Bulldozers Expanding 9 Settlements on West Bank

TA2706062195 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew* 0400 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bulldozers are now working in nine settlements belonging to the Mate Binyamin Regional Council in order to expand the settlements. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the bulldozers are clearing roads and the settlers are setting up fences. The security forces are not present at the sites.

Beilin Hopes Ties With Qatar Not Harmed by Change

TA2706085395 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew* 0700 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been reported from Doha, the capital of Qatar, that the airport has been closed and all flights have been canceled. The announcement was made soon after it was learned that Crown Prince Hamad Bin-Khalifah ousted his father. The father is currently visiting Europe. Soldiers are patrolling Doha and the Qatari media is broadcasting marches and praising the new ruler.

The ~~as~~ of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, 65, ruled Qatar for 23 years. In recent years the crown prince, the man who has assumed power, ran Qatar. He was involved in all the contacts with Israel following the Oslo accord. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin this morning expressed the hope that the ties with Qatar will not be harmed by the change of rulers.

King Congratulates Mubarak on Escaping Assassination*JN2606175495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn today held a telephone conversation with his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, immediately after his arrival in Cairo from Addis Ababa. He congratulated him on his safety and escape from the wicked assault launched against him in the Ethiopian capital today. His majesty denounced this criminal act and all forms of terrorism.

His majesty has also sent the following cable to His Excellency President Mubarak in which he congratulated him on surviving the sinful assassination attempt today: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency brother President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, may God protect you. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

I thank God almighty for your safety after the sinful assassination attempt against your excellency in the Ethiopian capital this morning, and for your return under God's providence to your sister country.

While sending to you sincere congratulations on my behalf and on behalf of the Jordanian people and Government, I strongly condemn terrorism, terrorists, and those who deal with them wherever they may be. I also condemn this criminal act, which is the meanest form of betrayal, and all forms of terrorism and those who back it through any means and under any pretext. We are firmly confident that good will eventually triumph and that evil deeds will come back on those who carry them out. I beseech God to preserve dear Egypt as a dignified and lofty country and to support your efforts in serving your people and nation. God is all-hearing. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother King Husayn, in Amman on 28 Muharram 1416 of the Hegira, corresponding to 26 June 1995

Jordanian, Israeli Trade Ministers Discuss Agreement*JN2606205695 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Minister of Trade and Industry 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib says Jordan and Israel have overcome most obstacles standing in the way of a trade agreement. 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib made the remarks following talks at the Dead Sea Hotel with his Israeli counterpart Mikha Harish.

The two ministers reviewed work by the specialized Trade Committee, an offshoot of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. During the meeting, 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib stressed the importance of providing the proper climate and procedures to allow Jordanian goods into the Israeli market.

For his part, Harish said he hoped today's meeting would help negotiators from both sides to finalize a trade agreement as soon as possible.

Trade Committee is to meet later this week and will forward its report to the concerned parties afterwards.

Bilateral Trade Agreement Signed*TA2706044995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Jordan have reached a bilateral trade agreement. The ministers of commerce of the two countries met yesterday on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea and finalized the agreement, which covers exports and research and development.

Minister Mikha Harish says the pact favors the Jordanians in the initial stages and that in the future Israeli industry will also enjoy its advantages. Harish also said the agreement allows King Husayn to work at canceling the Jordanian laws imposing an economic boycott on Israel.

Paper Hopes for Israeli-Palestinian Accord by 1 Jul*JN2606110395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jun 95 pp 1, 17*

[Editorial: "The Eve of the 1 July Deadline"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 1 July deadline is approaching amid extensive political reactions and signs that range from optimism to pessimism, and on a historic backdrop haunted by doubts and suspicion. This is happening while no one can predict what Israel's decision will be regarding an agreement on the redeployment of occupation forces in the occupied West Bank.

What makes the situation more ambiguous is the rigid stand the Israeli Government continues to adopt on the issue of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. This is added to the fact that occupation forces are back to practicing the harshest forms of oppression and torture against peaceful manifestations of popular solidarity and against popular marches which demand the release of the prisoners of freedom in a time of peace.

Amid all this, however, the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres at Erez crossing yesterday resulted in positive signs regarding the possibility of reaching a bilateral agreement by the

date which Israel has previously set. This provides some hope of giving the peace process a new push after peace seemed to be under serious threat.

In light of this, we hope that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will manage to reach an agreement that should open the road to implementing the second stage of the

Oslo agreement. This hope stems from our awareness of the serious complications that could result from Israel's failure to live up to its declared commitments toward the Palestinian track, the other negotiating tracks, and various aspects of the peace process.

Al-Hirawi Congratulates President Mubarak

NC2606125195 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
1115 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As soon as he heard the news of the attempted assassination of President Mubarak, President Ilyas al-Hirawi contacted President Mubarak, inquired about his health, and congratulated him on his safety. He said he hoped for an end to extremism, which threatens peace everywhere.

Nasrallah Says Fighters To Continue Struggle

NC2606194695 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
1915 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah believes that the peace agreement between Syria and Israel will not see the light. He said that the Hizballah fighters will continue their struggle against the Israeli occupation of the border strip in southern Lebanon, particularly by carrying out suicide operations against the Israeli soldiers. He said that he is not worried about the future of Hizballah if a peace agreement is reached between Syria and Israel. He said that those who believe our movement has become weaker are making a grave mistake.

Nasrallah Ties Criticism to Pelletreau Visit

NC2706081895 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0530 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has said that he is astonished by the criticism and remarks we now hear from some regime officials regarding the Resistance and its actions. This makes the matter suspicious. He said that these comments began immediately after U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau's visit to Lebanon and his demand that laws be enacted to end terrorism.

Al-Sayyid Nasrallah added: We have listened to and read remarks by regime officials agreeing with this view but without specifying what kind of terrorism they wanted to stop.

The Hizballah secretary general made these remarks yesterday during a ceremony organized by AL-'AHD newspaper at al-Batul Secondary School auditorium commemorating the paper's 11th anniversary. He added:

[Begin Nasrallah recording] We had to voice astonishment, denunciation, or whatever you want to call it, regarding the criticisms and observations that we have again started to hear from some regime's officials on the Resistance and its actions. What makes the matter suspicious is that these comments began immediately after Pelletreau's visit to Lebanon and his demand that laws

be enacted to stop terrorism. We have heard of and read remarks by some officials agreeing with this view but without specifying which terrorism they wanted to enact laws to stop. Another surprising matter is that while some of us are talking day and night about the strategic, fateful alliance with Syria—and there are Lebanese whose families are being killed—some officials open gaps in the political and media walls and criticize the Resistance. This is happening while the Syrian ambassador in Washington, who is perhaps the person most concerned with and embarrassed by the negotiations, is standing up to defend not only the origin or right of this resistance, but its latest performance and action. He calls it the natural reaction to Israeli aggression against villages. [end recording]

Death Sentence Passed on Ja'ja', Commuted to Life

NC2406114195 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
1125 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Judicial Council handed down its verdict a short while ago. It passed the death sentence against [former Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja' and commuted the sentence to life imprisonment at hard labor. Our correspondent reads the details:

The Judicial Council session ended a few moments ago. It handed down its verdict of a death sentence against Samir Ja'ja', Ghassan Tuma, Tony 'Ubayd, 'Atif al-Habr, (?Naja al-Qaddum), and Elie 'Awwad. The Judicial Council has commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment at hard labor. It acquitted defendant Rafiq Sa'adah. [passage omitted]

Further on Sentencing of Ja'ja'

NC2406134795 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
1300 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1215 today, the Judicial Council, presided over by Judge Philip Khayrallah, issued its verdict in the case of the assassination of Dany Sham'un and the members of his family. It sentenced disbanded Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' and co-defendant Karim Karam to life imprisonment at hard labor. It also sentenced in absentia the following defendants to life imprisonment at hard labor: Antonios Ilyas Ilyas, Jean Yusuf Shahin, 'Atif Bulus al-Habr, George As'ad al-Fawwali, Elie Jirjis 'Aqiqi, Jean Ghattas Smayya, Ilyas George 'Awwad, Naja Anis al-Qaddum, Farid Salim Sa'adah, and Ghassan Antoine Tuma. The Judicial Council acquitted Rafiq Sa'adah.

The verdict also called for personal compensation of 300 million pounds to be paid to Tamara Sham'un, 100

million pounds to Tracy Sham'um, and 100 million pounds to Iliya 'Abd-al-Nur and his wife. [passage omitted]

Romanian Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive on Visit

*NC2606130895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu arrived in Beirut at noon today heading a ministerial delegation. The delegation is scheduled to meet President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Economy Minister Yasin Jabr.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and several ministers and deputies were at Beirut Airport to receive Vacaroiu. The Romanian official said the aim of the visit is to consolidate bilateral cooperation.

Al-Hariri, Romanian Counterpart Hold Talks

*NC2606180695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1300 today, the initial round of talks took place between Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and his Romanian counterpart Nicolae Vacaroiu who is currently visiting Lebanon heading a delegation

of ministers and businessmen. At 1330, an expanded meeting was held, including prime ministers al-Hariri and Vacaroiu and the members of the two delegations. They discussed some major topics. Vacaroiu will meet with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz once again at 2030 at the presidential palace. The Romanian ministers will also meet separately with their Lebanese counterparts. The Romanian delegation will attend a dinner at 2100 in Quraytim as guests of Prime Minister al-Hariri.

Vacaroiu arrived at Beirut airport at noon. He was met by Prime Minister al-Hariri and a number of ministers. The Romanian official stated at the airport that his visit comes in response to an invitation from his Lebanese counterpart. During the visit, they will discuss various projects of interest to both countries in the political, economic, and trade sectors to bolster relations. They will also sign agreements of interest to both countries, including a special agreement on dual taxation, security, land and sea transportation, and contract labor.

On the peace process, Vacaroiu reaffirmed his country's interest in the process to entrench and establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region, leading to guaranteeing the rights and interests of all parties. He stressed that Romania supports all international resolutions. Tomorrow, the Romanian delegation will visit President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri; then he will go to the south.

Al-Asad Phones Mubarak After Assassination Attempt*JN2606161195 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1530 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 26 Jun (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad held a telephone conversation today with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to congratulate him on his safe escape from the assassination attempt to which he was exposed in Addis Ababa. President al-Asad also condemned this attempt because such attempts greatly harm Arab action and interests.

Iran Asked To Support Plan To Disarm Hizballah*MM2606134395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 25 Jun 95 pp 1, 4*

[Unattributed report: "In Tehran, Khaddam Discusses Redeployment of Hizballah"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Sources in Tehran said yesterday that Syria has informed the Iranian Government of "its fixed desire" to push the peace negotiations with Israelis toward a "positive conclusion." The sources added that Syria is seeking to obtain a confirmation from Iran of [its acceptance of] a plan to disarm the Lebanese branch of Hizballah after a comprehensive agreement has been reached with Israel.

However, hard-line circles in Iranian media services warned Syria yesterday against "falling into the Zionist conspiracies." The official Tehran radio urged Syria in strong language to "stand fast against the U.S. pressures aimed at compelling it to join the PLO and Jordan" and sign a peace agreement with Israel.

Syrian sources have described Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's mission in Tehran as "the most delicate mission" in his long political work. [passage omitted]

With regard to the issue of disarming Hizballah at the right time, it has been placed in the framework of "a plan for a flexible redeployment" of the armed group's elements in southern Lebanon. The first step in this connection could be to place the heavy weapons under Syrian supervision. Such a measure could be followed by the redeployment of units from the Lebanese Army between Hizballah's positions and those of the militias of the South Lebanese Army belonging to Israel in the occupied border strip.

However, the deep divisions in Tehran are likely to prevent the announcement of open support for Syria's position on peace with Israel and the request to reorganize the Lebanese branch of Hizballah.

Khaddam Interviewed on Peace, U.S. Embargo on Iran*NC2406193795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 Jun 95*

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 24 July, from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Arabic section of the radio and television of the Islamic Republic of Iran meets with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. We welcome him to this interview and we thank him for answering our questions.

[Khaddam] Thank you very much.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Israeli acts of aggression against southern Lebanon are continuing. How is this affecting the negotiations between Syria and Israel?

[Khaddam] These acts are a result of the Israeli aggression on and occupation of southern Lebanon. Certainly, there is no way anyone can pressure us as far as the current talks on peace in the region are concerned.

[Correspondent] Mr. Khaddam, Syria has held several rounds of negotiations with Israel. Did those rounds make any progress?

[Khaddam] So far, those talks have not taken us to a point where we can say serious progress has been made. There are talks about security arrangements now. These talks will show us whether other developments are going to be positive or negative.

[Correspondent] Mr. Khaddam, Israel announced its readiness for a partial withdrawal from the Golan. What does Syria think of this?

[Khaddam] There is nothing that Syria can relinquish or concede. The withdrawal must extend to the lines of 4 June 1967 and must involve all Lebanese territories.

[Correspondent] There is political, economic, and cultural cooperation between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran. How is this cooperation progressing?

[Khaddam] Relations between the two countries have constantly been growing since the Islamic revolution was launched in Iran. These relations are taking their natural course. The governments of the two countries are determined to continue and bolster this cooperation in the areas that serve the interests of the two countries.

[Correspondent] Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, how do you view the future of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations?

[Khaddam] This is linked to the results of the talks. If the talks lead to the Israelis accepting a withdrawal to the 4 June lines and withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, then we can say that the negotiations are on a positive course. If, on the other hand, the Israelis continue their intransigence, then naturally Israel will be responsible before the international community.

[Correspondent] Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the U.S. President has recently decided to impose an economic embargo on Iran. This was announced at a meeting of the World Jewish Congress. What do you think of Clinton's embargo on Iran?

[Khaddam] The policy of embargoes is unacceptable. I do not think that any single country can support this policy.

[Correspondent] We thank you very much for giving us this opportunity, and we wish you a good stay in your second country, the Iran of Islam.

[Khaddam] Thank you for this opportunity.

Press Looks For Positive Results in Washington

JN2706090095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial today in which it discusses the Washington meeting and the constants for peace in the region, AL-BA'TH says: Peace in the Middle East has only one concept, which is legally approved by the entire world. This concept is based on eliminating the consequences of aggression and preventing the aggressor from reaping any profit from his aggression.

The paper adds: Any deviation from this principle will return the peace process to its traditional crisis, in which it was stuck for more than 45 months.

AL-BA'TH adds that today's meeting in Washington provides a new and valuable opportunity to straighten matters in the peace process.

The paper stresses that the success of the Washington meeting hinges primarily on the Israeli position, which will materialize at the end of these meetings. That position must reflect the Israeli leaders' good intentions and commitment — in deed and word — to the declared principles of the peace process. Otherwise, the results of that meeting will add another nail to the coffin of the peace process.

TISHRIN discusses the same subject and says: Syria's participation in the Washington meeting at the level of the chief of staff reflects Damascus' keenness on

seeing a successful end to the peace process. It also reflects its serious desire to provide all the means to establish the just and comprehensive peace. Moreover, it provides another test on Israel's intentions about making a genuine peace.

TISHRIN adds: This meeting was the result of intensive efforts by the U.S. Administration to boost the peace process. Syria has welcomed, and responded favorably to these efforts and demanded an active role of an impartial and unbiased broker.

The paper says it believes that the Washington meeting today will be decisive and its results will affect — either positively or negatively — the entire peace process in the region. Its success, therefore, hinges on the Israeli Government's willingness and seriousness about the security arrangement framework and its application.

TISHRIN stresses that peace with Syria cannot be attained without comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 borderlines, without withdrawal from southern Lebanon, and without implementing security arrangements that are based on equality [musawah], symmetry [tanazur], and balance [tawazun].

Concluding its editorial, the paper hopes the Washington meeting will produce positive results.

Papers: Success Depends on Israel's 'Seriousness'

JN2606072595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jun 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN discusses in its editorial today the meanings and dimensions of the anniversary of the liberation of al-Qunaytirah.

Under the headline "Syrian Constants and the Battle for Peace," the paper says: On 26 June 1974, the Syrian Arab flag was raised in the sky of the liberated city and al-Qunaytirah returned to the motherland, Syria, after seven years of Israeli occupation and after the occupation troops destroyed it only days before they withdrew from it.

The paper stresses that Syria's positions and policy have never abandoned the constants and principles of the Arab right and never hesitated to demand the return of all of its territory through all means and ways. For that sake, Syria fought one battle after the other, armed with everything that would help it achieve its goals.

TISHRIN adds: Syria has established the path to just and comprehensive peace. Its position was based on adherence to the principles of the peace process, the

resolutions of the international legitimacy and the UN Security Council, and the land-for-peace formula. In light of these principles and constants, Syria participated positively in the Madrid peace conference and in the Washington talks. It also paved the road to peace by complying with all requirements and dues of the just and comprehensive peace. Moreover, it demanded a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon as a basic condition to achieve that peace.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: These constants are the basis for Syria's course, policy, and positions. On the anniversary of the liberation of al-Qunaytirah — as the vigor strengthens and as Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, continues in the battle to establish the genuine, just, and comprehensive peace — we must stress that Syria does not bargain over territory or relinquishes its rights.

In today's commentary, AL-BA'TH discusses tomorrow's meeting in Washington among Syrian and Israeli military officials. The paper says that the success of the Washington meeting hinges on Israel's response to the conditions and requirements of the just and comprehensive peace, stressing that this response must be specific and clear.

AL-BA'TH emphasizes that Syria's position is very precise and clear. Syria has stressed, and continues to stress, that it is absolutely committed to the conditions and requirements of just and comprehensive peace. The problem remains with Israel's ambiguous and contradictory position. Israel says one thing today, another on the next, or even at the same time.

The paper says the peace process requires seriousness and clarity, and, consequently, a commitment to the requirements of peace. Without these conditions, no progress can be achieved, especially since genuine peace requires action. This action means full commitment to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders which is a basic condition for a successful peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Consequently, we believe that Israel must abandon its old policy and deal with the forthcoming Washington meeting with the required seriousness. It must respond clearly to the conditions and requirements needed for a successful peace process. The policy of procrastination and evasion of the requirements of the peace process cannot help provide the suitable ground which the peace process needs in order to proceed toward its goals.

AL-BA'TH concludes its editorial by saying: Tomorrow's meeting in Washington is truly a real opportunity to achieve progress. This, however, hinges on the extent of Israel's seriousness and response to the international

community's determination to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

Israel Urged To End 'Suspensions' in Rhetoric

JN2406151795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1134 GMT 24 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Before the beginning of a new round of Syrian-Israeli talks at the level of military experts, the peace process seems at a crossroads that will determine its destiny and that of the region as a whole.

The new round, which will resume in the wake of intensive U.S. efforts that followed the Syrian-Israeli understanding on a framework for security arrangements, is considered, by all standards, as a real and new opportunity that will give a real momentum to the peace process, so it will be possible to talk about a tangible progress. Such progress will embody the will of peace and respond to the aspirations of the people in the region and the world for living in peace and for security and stability for all.

We do not add anything new when we assert that the coming round will be a clear test for the real Israeli intentions. The positive steps achieved, which have created much optimism in the region and the world, will continue to be worthless if they are not translated on the ground in such a way that the security arrangements—as part of the framework of understanding—will tangibly and accurately implement the concepts of equality [tasawi], equitability [takafu'], parallelism [tawazi], and balance [tawazun] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borders.

By approving the resumption of talks at the level of military experts, Syria has provided a new opportunity to promote the peace process. Syria has frequently asserted that it considers peace as a strategic option in its policy. Moreover, Syria is interested in achieving peace stemming from its eagerness to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Syria will not accept less than full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. This is so because the interest in peace, in itself, means care for the territory, dignity, and rights. There will be no real and durable peace without returning the territories and rights to their owners and without preserving the dignity and interests of all.

This stresses the need for Israel to end the suspicions and skepticism included in its political and media

rhetoric and to define the features of a new way of thinking by which it can address its people and brief them on the realities and requirements of peace. These realities require Israel to adapt itself to its general and negotiating conduct. They are also requisites that should be met, so the path of peace will be smooth, and the coming Washington talks can achieve a tangible progress and a positive development through which the peace process can proceed toward its aspired objective in terms of bringing about a just and comprehensive peace and placing the region in a new phase whose slogan is "Security and Stability for Everyone."

The road to peace has clear features now. Syria has nothing to offer more than its true intentions and approaches to peace as well as its readiness to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and its response to the U.S. efforts based on commitment to these resolutions and to the land-for-peace principle.

As is known by all, Syria is not interested in incomplete deals, partial withdrawals, or any kind of dictations

which Israel writes down on the pretext of security. The territory is Syrian and it should be returned in full. The rights are Syria's national and pan-Arab rights and they should be secured. As for security, it is in fact mutual commitments.

If the Israeli intentions are true, it will be possible to overcome the obstacles that may arise during the accurate implementation of the concepts stipulated in the understanding on the framework of security arrangements.

Time flies, and the Washington talks will be a practical test for intentions. Israel is required to confirm that it has understood the facts of peace and responded to the objective requirements of peace, led by full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 line. What always counts are the deeds and not anything else. The results are linked to the deeds.

Bangladesh

Indian Official Visits for Water Sharing Talks

Addresses Press After First Sessions

BK2406161295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Bangladesh today agreed to take necessary steps toward a comprehensive solution of the sharing of the common river waters, including the Ganges. Talking to newsmen after two sessions of talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart in Dhaka today, the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, said the talks covered wide range of bilateral issues in a cordial atmosphere. Asked about future meetings, Mr. Haider hoped there will be more opportunities.

The Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr. Farooq Sobhan, said other bilateral issues were also discussed. Indian delegation sources, however, indicated that the issue of reviving the Joint River Commission, which India has been favoring for long, figured in the talks.

Agrees on Monitoring of Ganges River

BK2506150195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to revive the Joint River Commission to look into the technical details about sharing of water of common rivers, including the Ganges. Both countries have also agreed to jointly monitor the flow of Ganges waters at Farakka Point in India and Hardinge Bridge in Bangladesh. The two agreements were reached during the daylong foreign secretary-level meeting between the two countries in Dhaka yesterday. Indian diplomatic sources told AIR Dhaka correspondent that both the proposals were made by India and accepted by Bangladesh. The visiting Indian foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, is to meet the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, today before leaving for Delhi.

Radio Reports on 'Useful Talks'

BK2606104195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh and India held useful talks on the Ganges water sharing and other issues in Dhaka today. Both the sides have reported that a lot of ground was covered in the discussions. Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan led the Bangladesh side, while Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider headed his country's delegation at the talks.

Leaders of both the delegations struck positive notes as they spoke briefly to newsmen on the outcome of the discussion. Emerging from the second round of talks in the afternoon, Mr. Farooq Sobhan said the discussions took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and frankness. He said Bangladesh has drawn the attention of the Indian side to the urgent need for a solution of the crucial problem of the sharing of the waters of the Ganges. He said they have decided to take certain steps about the River Ganges as well as other common rivers.

Expressing the same sentiment, the Indian foreign secretary said the discussion was characterized by a spirit of friendship and understanding.

Earlier in the morning, both the sides held their first round of talks.

Radio Details Discussions

BK2506150495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] India has given assurances of reaching a permanent agreement on the Ganges water sharing issue. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan while addressing a news conference in Dhaka today regarding the talks he held yesterday with his Indian counterpart, Salman Haider.

Sobhan termed the Indian assurances a positive development in the interests of Bangladesh and India. He said the two sides emphasized a ministerial-level meeting of the Joint River Commission [JRC] to hold extensive discussions on river water sharing. He said Bangladesh stressed a system that provides for regular monitoring of water flow, not only of the Ganges but all other rivers as well. Dhaka also stressed the need for joint monitoring of water flow at four [number as heard] places during the dry season: Farakka Link Canal, Hardinge Bridge, and the mouth of the upstream navigational area of the link canal. The JRC meeting will devise rules in this regard.

Our representative quotes the foreign secretary as saying he told the Indian foreign secretary about the serious adverse effects of the Farakka project on Bangladesh's environment, atmosphere, and salinity; on the Khulna Newsprint Mill; and on the Sundarbans area. He also mentioned the problem of soil subsidence, silting, and the Ganges [word indistinct] project.

Sobhan said the issue of regional cooperation for the development of water resources in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal came up for discussion during the talks. He said that in addition to India's Barak River project [words indistinct] in India, he also raised the problem of

diverting the upstream water flow. He said these issues and other matters will be discussed at the JRC meeting.

Earlier in the morning, Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider briefed reporters on yesterday's talks. He said the two countries agreed to convene a meeting of the Bangladesh-India JRC at their earliest convenience. Salman Haider called his talks with the Bangladesh foreign secretary comprehensive, sincere, and friendly.

Daily Addresses BNP Control of Radio, TV

Private Ownership Needed

95P50135 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English
19 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The occasion was UNESCO-supported, and globally observed, World Press Freedom Day, held at the Press Club, on 3rd. May, at the initiative of the Coordinating Council for Human Rights [CCHRB]. Nazmul Huda M.P., the former information minister, was at his usual plain speaking self. As the man who has held the helm of government's propaganda machinery for the longest spell under this government, it was natural that a lot of the discussion on freedom of the media was directed at him, or that is how he felt. This writer, being one of the speakers, made a plea for the decontrolling of the audio-visual media - the radio and television. Barrister Huda's reply was characteristically his own. He began by chiding us for not expressing any gratitude to him for opening up our air waves to CNN and BBC, and thereby providing us with an opportunity to enjoy world class news reporting. (I think he has a point. He must have faced tremendous resistance from the usual interested groups, while he was planning to introduce the two international news bodies. The pressure must have continued even after, which he resisted to his credit). As a reply to his chiding, Editor of weekly Holiday, Enayetullah Khan, one of the speakers on the occasion, pointed out that while the former information minister was quick to grant CNN and BC permission to air programmes on BTV network, he never granted permission to local private bodies to do the same. If the government wanted to monopolise radio and BTV, then it should allow private radio and TV to operate side by side. If I have understood Mintoo Bhai (as Mr. Khan is affectionately called by all his younger colleagues in the profession) correctly, he seemed resigned to the fact that governments will always monopolise official radio and TV, and hence it is futile to except anything from them, and as such the public should go private electronic media. May be he is right. But for the moment, I hesitate to fully agree with him about giving upon BTV and the radio. I think as long as these institutions are being

run by the tax payers' money, the public must have a say on how they are being used. This is a public right which we have not yet been able to establish in Bangladesh. Governments here seem to have failed to distinguish-deliberately I suspect, because it suits their needs-between government and the State. Radio and TV is NOT OWNED by the government of the day, but by the State. A government manages these institutions by virtue of the fact that it has been elected by the people. and that also, under well laid out laws which are passed by the parliaments. There is no scope for arbitrary and whimsical use of these instruments of public information. What we now see and hear on BTV and the radio is nothing but the continuation of the autocratic mindset, of which we have a rich legacy. This author had written on numerous occasions, that nowhere else has the Bangladesh National Party [BNP] failed itself, and the people who elected them, more than in its handling of the BTV and the radio. Everyday, at least twice if not more, the present government shows the people of Bangladesh that very little has changed, since the fall of autocracy, as far as government's use of state media is concerned. A party that did not get a minute of air-time on state-owned media during the nine years of Ershad's rule and was yet able to win majority of seats in a free and fair election (four times the seats of the party that monopolised air-time relentlessly for the said period), today is doing exactly the same thing - not giving any air-time to opposition news and views. We know that we do not learn from history. But this is not yet history. It is only yesterday, just the preceding chapter of our long, torturous and painful political history. The former information minister, in his speech, reiterated his views about government control of radio and TV. His first argument was and the one which is repeated often by many BNP stalwarts, that all previous governments did the same. BNP did not start this policy. "We were oppressed and punished, and never given a minute on government radio and TV, when we were out of power." So, was the ruling party getting even? "No. But can we be blamed if we are human?" What did he mean? Is it his position that since previous governments controlled radio and TV so should his? Doesn't that push us into a perpetual cycle of control? Because all governments can use the excuse of the preceding one. Then about being 'human'. We know that it is human to take revenge, or to behave in the same manner as one has been treated. But it is also 'human' to move away from past mistakes. Human beings not only repeat the follies of the past but they also learn from mistakes, and chart out new courses of actions. Otherwise, civilizations would not have advanced. Then the former minister said something I had not heard before. He said, referring to the TV and radio personnel

"We all have to become neutral first" before radio and TV can be decontrolled. "Otherwise it will not serve any public purpose" If I have understood the former minister correctly [and if I have not, then I invite him to write for us on this subject] he is implying that unless and until the people who work for the Radio and the TV are neutral, decontrolling these institutions would amount to playing into their partisan hands. Are we to wait until all officials of radio and TV become neutral, before we can expect the decontrolling of these vital organs of public information? Who will certify when some such officials actually become "neutral"? Will it be the Information Ministry, the government, the party in power? If not, then who? Who judges the neutrality of those who will judge the neutrality of radio and TV officials? It is not unheard of that people working for government institutions have personal political views. However, if there is a system in place then all such tendencies can be checked. Instead of the present system, the radio and BTV can be controlled and run by independent media professionals, forming an autonomous body, under an Act of the Parliament, and answerable to a Parliamentary Committee. Such a body itself will be best guarantor against partisan tendencies of any staff members. Given the obvious popularity of BBC among our people, why not use it as model to reform our radio and TV. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation [CBC], and some others from Europe could all serve as possible models to emulate from. But do we have the will to do so? As far as our politicians are concerned, the answer is a resounding "YES", only as long as we are in opposition. The problem, as I see it, is that once in power no political party wants to part with the means of self propaganda. The curious thing is that, regardless of its own experience, no government seems to understand that the very 'soul' of communication is credibility. Even to get its own messages across, the medium through which it is communicating must be credible. One credible statement is worth more than a thousand words of propaganda. And no government controlled radio and TV will ever have credibility, unless and until it allows large, if not equal, access of the critics of the government. This fundamental fact is as valid for a autocratic government, as it is for one elected by popular vote. Take for example the endless hours of Begum Zia's speeches that we have heard over the electronic media during the last four years. How much of all those footage had any real impact on us? How much of what she said did we take seriously? How often did we move away from our TV sets, and did something else, while that was on? More to the point, how often did we react with disgust, and uttered unkind words, as we saw the PM monopolising the state media. One minister told me, and I commend him for

his forthrightness, that his family members turn off the TV whenever such things occur. But imagine, instead of all the hours she was on the TV, the PM used only half of that time, and allowed opposition leaders to use the rest. I am confident that such a policy would have made Begum Zia's speeches far more convincing, and of much greater impact and lasting value. But to do so, a leader must have self confidence enough to believe that "my record speaks for itself. Let the opposition say what it wants. People will know what to believe." Obviously the present leadership lacked such confidence. Why? That will be the answer people will seek in deciding their votes for in the next election. Given the fact that another election is round the corner. I think we in the print media, should start a concerted campaign to free radio and TV from government control. We should create all sorts of pressure to bear upon the authorities to move on this matter. We should try our best to make the opposition publicly pronounce on this issue. Skeptics may say that such public pronouncement does not matter, because after winning the election, they all forget it. But even then we must keep on trying. Sheikh Hasina recently said something to this effect. We, from the media, should insist that she elaborate on it, and give that maximum publicity, so that her public commitment is etched deeply in the public mind. In my view, freeing the electronic media from government control, and placing under some autonomous, public interest body, should be a priority task before us at the moment.

Coverage of Anti-Awami League

Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 9 Jun 95 pp 1,8

[Unattributed News Article "Radio, TV giving anti-AL coverage, says Hasina"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Awami League [AL] President Sheikh Hasina yesterday bitterly criticised the state owned radio and television for what she called distorting the history of the liberation war and spreading anti-AL propaganda, reports UNB. She warned of utter consequences of "misleading the people by resorting to the misuse of electronic media." "This process will cripple the nation," the Awami League chief said while addressing a joint meeting of the party's publicity, information and research sub-committees at her Dhanmondi residence. Hasina said that the country's independence and sovereignty would be at stake if such distortion of the national history continued under government patronisation. She accused the government of turning the electronic media into a party propaganda machine and betraying the joint declaration of the three alliances signed during the anti-Ershad movement and reiterated the demand for autonomy of radio and

television. The AL President also demanded that radio and television channels be allowed in the private sector to project the truth, including corruption and misrule, and real history of the liberation war. The meeting was attended, among others, by party leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Jalil, Prof Abu Sayeed, Abdul Mannan, Nurul Fazal Bulbul, Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan and Mrinal Kanti Das.

India

Commentary Views Nuclear Testing, NPT

BK2506153795 *Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Jun 95*

[Commentary by Raj Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Resumption of nuclear tests by China and the decision to do so by France soon after the indefinite extension of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] have disillusioned every nonnuclear powers who had signed the unconditional extension of the NPT in April this year. They feel these decisions erode not only the credibility of the extended NPT but as well belie the hopes of nuclear disarmament.

More disappointing has been the British decision to accept the French resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific Ocean as a fait accompli amid reports that Washington, too, is contemplating resumption of its nuclear testing. British Prime Minister John Major has said that the (?short series) of the French nuclear tests were acceptable to the British. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has disclosed that his country and other nuclear weapon powers would soon discuss whether the moratorium on nuclear weapon testing should remain in place or testing should be resumed. The Clinton administration, he said, is still in the process of debating the whole issue.

French President Chirac angered governments worldwide when he announced that France would abandon its 1992 moratorium and conduct eight nuclear tests before signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. The French president on 19 June even received a face-to-face appeal from Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama to call off the nuclear tests. Australia's decision to recall its ambassador from Paris and to suspend military cooperation with France in tandem with the people's decision to boycott the French goods are indicative of the big public resentment the French decision has aroused in the Asia-Pacific region.

However, now it is clear that the nuclear weapon powers had come to an understanding on the question of resumption of nuclear weapon tests even before the extension conference was convened in April in New

York. It appears that the NPT conference was only a sideshow or at best a public relations exercise in as much as their hard decisions had already been taken to carry on with the nuclear testing. This fully justifies India's decision not to participate in the NPT extension conference. It may be recalled that India's stand on the nuclear nonproliferation issue and on the question of nuclear disarmament is contained in India's action plan for nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament presented in the United Nations in December 1988 by late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi based on the deliberations of the six nations from five continents as embodied in the Delhi Declaration.

India's opposition is not to the nonproliferation clauses of the NPT but its discriminatory character. India favors a time-bound nondiscriminatory comprehensive nuclear disarmament agreement with proper verification procedure and safeguards. By resuming nuclear weapon testing India's and Third World's hopes have been belied by the nuclear weapon states. It appears that the nuclear weapon powers have a different game plan. An indication of this was given last week by the Sri Lankan ambassador and chairman of the NPT extension conference, Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, when he said in Tokyo that there were disturbing reports of a threshold test ban treaty to be foisted in the guise of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. He was referring to the fact that soon after the CTBT, the USA and other nuclear weapon states would continue below this threshold and try to foist it on the non-nuclear weapon states, including India.

So it is clear now that while the nuclear weapon states would carry on with their nuclear weapon testing, potential nuclear states like India would be pressurized to cap their nuclear programs and subscribe to the NPT. The nuclear weapon states' experts say that nuclear weapon tests are required to test the reliability of the stockpiled weapons and to develop new models. They point out in their support that President Clinton had already signed a memorandum in January this year that says the CTBT must not prohibit activities required to maintain the safety and reliability of our nuclear stockpile. This compels one to draw the conclusion that political expediency and supremacy, not principles, are guiding factors and motivation of the nuclear weapon powers.

Article Considers Future of Enron Project

BK2506105895 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH
in English 22 Jun 95 p 13

[Article by Ujjwal K. Chowdhury: "Winning the Power Play"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is a power game all right. On one side is Maharashtra's recently elected Shiv Sena Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] government which came to power promising to launch an attack on secret deals and kickbacks. On the other side is the powerful Houston based Enron Corporation which is determined to protect its interests. Caught in the middle is the Rs [rupees] 90 billion Dabhol Power Project (DPP) based in Ratnagiri district, slated to produce 2,015 megawatts [MW] of gas based power for the state.

With dark clouds of controversy hanging over the future of the project, more than the DPP is at stake however. The outcome of the debate is fast emerging as a benchmark of the Indian government's commitment to liberalisation and globalisation. Foreign companies, and not just in the power sector, are closely watching the fate of the DPP to gauge just how investor friendly the country is.

At the same time, critics of economic reforms are eager to use the Enron example to prove how powerful multinational companies can manipulate governments, rules and regulations.

Amidst all the information and misinformation, one thing is clear: India stands to lose more than just the \$200 million penalty that Enron threatens to demand from the Maharashtra government if the project is scrapped.

The question then is: can't the clamour for review and rejection be changed into a reasonable process of negotiation? Such an approach might be the one face saver needed by both the Shiv Sena BJP government, which promised to undo the deal if and when it came to power, and the Enron led consortium — Enron owns 80 per cent of the DPP, its partners, General Electric and Bechtel Enterprises, own 10 per cent.

The following areas can be considered for negotiations.

Criticisms of the project start from the inception — that the DPP evolved without any competitive bidding or the floating of a global tender. However, in May 1992, when the project was first conceived, the country was facing an acute lack of investor confidence in the international business community. At the same time, given that the demand for power for the ninth plan period had been estimated at 1,42,000 MW, the government needed

foreign funds to help cover the \$180 billion needed to cater to the demand.

Enron can then hardly be blamed for the hurried procedures adopted by the Indian government to jump start the process of setting up power plants in the country. Moreover, unlike today, no law then existed making it imperative to float global tenders before going in for a foreign funded project in the country. This is certainly one area where it would serve the country better if the Shiv Sena BJP government turns a blind eye.

Then comes the allegation of cost rigging in the controversial and technologically complicated power purchase agreement [PPA]. The DPP documents, now publicly available, reveal the project will cost Rs 43.6 million per megawatt. Moreover, the DPP will sell power to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board at an agreed rate of tariff, estimated to be Rs 2.40 per kilowatt hour in 1977, at an assured 90 per cent plant load factor on the average. The arrangement, which is being financed by the Industrial Development Bank of India through rupee loans to the tune of Rs 70 billion, is first guaranteed by the Centre.

But Dabhol, with a capital cost of Rs 36.5 million per megawatt on the plant start up date, is comparable to the power plants being set up at Gandhar, Kathalguri, Jegurupadu, Godavari and Neyveli. In fact its estimated costs are lesser than those of some of these plants. Further, the Enron led consortium is investing heavily in infrastructure — with Rs 5.5 million per megawatt alone being built to facilitate fuel imports.

As far as per unit cost of power is concerned, Enron's president, Joseph Sutton, has admitted in response to the objections raised by the Maharashtra accountant general's office that the price of Rs 2.40 per kilowatt hour might come down if the price of fuel — initially distillate fuel, and later liquefied petroleum gas falls. At the same time, it must be recalled that the price includes provisions for inflations which even at an annual rate of 8.5 per cent, will depreciate the earnings of Enron.

Another series of complaints about the manner in which the project has evolved relate to several components of the project costs. Critics aver that these are either inflated or concocted especially in such cases as the technical consultancy fee to be paid to the owner's engineers (who are Enron affiliates) which is a high Rs 354 million; a development fee (unknown in India) of Rs 862 million; preliminary expenses of Rs 627.2 million; and undefined preoperative expenses to the tune of Rs 5472.6 million — nearly a sixth of the total cost of Rs 30.29 billion for Phase I.

With regard to these fundamental criticisms, there is perhaps a strong case to review the PPA and the tariff structure of the DPP to ensure that the country is not entering into a bad bargain. Prima facie, some components of the total costs may be open to downward revision. Enron could also ensure that certainly easily available services for the project are farmed out to Indian companies through competitive bidding.

However, only a grossly one-sided PPA, and one which the company is totally unwilling to change radically, should warrant a step as drastic as the total cancellation of the project.

Questions have been raised about the impact of the project on the estuary of the river Vashishti that runs alongside the power plant on the lives and livelihood of the fishermen and the horticulturists of the four affected villages — Veldur, Ranavi, Anjanvel and Gohagar — and on the rich natural vegetation of this part of the Konkan region. The anti-Enron lobby claims that land is being confiscated for the project on promises of negligible sums of compensation, while the houses are being left out — except for the area where the DPP plant will be constructed — from the calculations, thereby side stepping the legal issues of rehabilitating the affected people.

If this is indeed the case, the Enron led consortium should consider an all out social programme to reach out to the people affected by the project. One option would be to offer more jobs than the 200 posts of chowkidars [security guards] already promised. A higher compensation could also be agreed upon for the lands taken in possession — by some accounts the current rate is a meagre Rs 20,000 per acre — as well as providing rehabilitation facilities, as the loss of livelihood (in the form of cultivation and fishing grounds) is equivalent to the loss of residence in socio-economic terms.

Given that the allegation of kickbacks is hard to prove and often has political motives behind it, and that there is a case for revising some of the cost components of the project—which might not be as one sided as the critics fear — a thorough, unbiased review is not too difficult a compromise to work towards. Especially as there is a potential for reworking the socio-ecological costs of the project, using Enron's considerable access to state of the art pollution control technologies. However, until good sense prevails on both the sides, the power play is fated to continue.

Iran

Ministry, Press Comment on Mubarak Attack

Ministry Rejects Israel's 'Big Lie'

LD2706111695 Tehran IRNA in English
1052 GMT 27 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry official yesterday rejected as a "big lie" the charges levelled by a Zionist regime official that Iran was behind the assassination bid against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The Israeli prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday said the assailants, who fired at Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa on Monday [26 June] were members of an Iran-backed Islamic group.

The unnamed Foreign Ministry official, quoted by IRAN daily, described the charges as "sheer impudence".

"Iran has always strongly condemned any act of terrorism," stressed the official, adding that "the usurper regime of Qods is itself the leader of state-run terrorism in the world."

He termed the allegations by the Israeli leader as a futile attempt to improve its lost image before the world public opinion. Mubarak escaped unhurt and his body guards killed at least two of the assailants.

"The leaders of the Zionist regime, having realised that there are some developments in the bilateral relations between Iran and Egypt, want to destroy these relations by raising such claims against Iran," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He added that Cairo by distancing itself from Tel Aviv would come closer to the Islamic world and this is a fact that would be welcome by Iran but cause the concern of the Zionist regime.

The French news agency (AFP), reported that a person, claiming to be connected to the "Tala'i al-Fatah (Vanguard of the Conquest)", in a contact with an international news agency in Cairo said that the group would take its revenge on Mubarak. The group has openly accepted the responsibility for the assassination attempt. Since 1992, some 25 members of the group have been sentenced to death by Cairo and Mubarak passed the death penalty for two other members of the group last Saturday on charges of murder.

The IRAN newspaper quoted an Arab journalist in London as saying that Rabin's allegation was an effort to cover up the role of Israel in the incident. The journalist noted that the assassination of Mubarak or any other official of the Arab states would serve the interests of Israel more than any other country. "Through

its hostile anti-Iran propaganda backed by the Western media, Israel would get one step closer to the Arabs and, to the same extent, make them feel concerned over Iran."

After Mubarak escaped the assassination attempt unhurt, the first congratulation message was sent to him by Rabin, said the paper which found the move to be "suspicious."

Daily Links Attack to Israeli-Syrian Pact

*LD2706074995 Tehran IRNA in English
0720 GMT 27 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA — Iran has always sought a just peace in the region, a peace that would guarantee the interests of all people including the refugees, the oppressed, and all Palestinian people in general, an English-language daily wrote Tuesday [27 June].

Referring to the Monday assassination attempt against Egypt's Husni Mubarak, IRAN NEWS said in its editorial that the attempt came after Syria and Israel signed a security pact on the Golan Heights.

The Syrian joint chief of staff is to meet with his American counterpart in Washington today to deliberate on the Israel-Syria peace process, it said, adding that the armed attack appears to be an objection to the Middle East peace which mubarak has tried to promote.

The editorial further said that the advocates of the Middle East peace have always made two mistakes. First, it said, they have a mechanical outlook toward the issue and feel that by signing one or several agreements, they will be able to change or put in abeyance the sentiments and demands of the people.

Secondly, they believe that legal validity and public legitimacy come after the endorsement of an agreement or approval of an action by the government officials but this is not true, as the people do not consider all government acts and deeds legitimate, added the article.

It suggested that Western governments and those following up the Middle East peace process should come to grips with the reality that the political and social orders and structures of the Middle East are deeply rooted and imbedded in unalterable values and principles.

It stressed that those officials who sat at the negotiation table for peace never took notice of the interests of all those who would in one way or another be involved in the matter, such as the refugees, prisoners and families of those who lost their lives.

"All of these hold the right to mention their views on the Middle East peace," it said, "but no consideration has ever been given to them and they have been ignored."

Naturally, it noted, these people are dissatisfied with the way the events have proceeded and use every change to voice their displeasure.

It is imperative to realize the essence and nature of every crisis to come up with a fit solution to it, the daily said in conclusion, adding, "attempt to sign a peace treaty is like temporarily covering a fire that would at one moment or another flare and blaze."

Official Comments on Rushdie Fatwa, U.S. Embargo

*LD2506182995 Tehran IRNA in English
1744 GMT 25 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Member of Majles foreign policy commission, Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani said here on Sunday [25 June] the objective of raising Salman Rushdie affairs by some European countries was making a breakthrough in the Middle East peace compromise.

Speaking to IRNA parliamentary correspondent, he said the European states did not expect Iran to take action to revoke the fatwa issued by the late Imam Khomeyni in 1989.

Raja'i-Khorasani said the European countries are well aware that death edict against Rushdie is not an initiative, but, it is a clear principle in the Islamic ruling, the edict that the Islamic ulema and Jeddah-based the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has confirmed it.

About the statement of the Group of Seven industrialized nations in Halifax, Canada, he said the summit did not take any executive decision against Iran despite President Clinton's endeavours to persuade them to do so.

He said, "of course, the G7 statement made a face-saving gesture to help Clinton not return empty-handedly".

Raja'i-Khorasani said it is very unlikely that other countries follow the U.S. example because the world community is principally against such embargo.

German Official's Remarks on Fatwah Criticized

*LD2606053695 Tehran IRNA in English
0458 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — Tehran has already made its position on Imam Khomeyni's fatwa on Salman Rushdie clear and reiterated that

the fatwa is a religious edict, not a state decree, an English-language daily stressed Monday [26 June].

TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial today referred to a statement issued in Bonn on Friday in which German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel urged Iran "to take a clear position" on the fatwa.

The Kinkel statement indicates that he is far behind in professional diplomacy, wrote the daily, adding that it is far from expectations that Germany, a leading world economy, would resort to immature fluctuations in its foreign policy.

"By adopting such an oscillating foreign policy, Kinkel sacrifices his country's national interest for toeing the British line of foreign policy which is anti-Islam and anti-Muslim," the editorial noted.

Bonn has recently made a gesture of its anti-terrorist view by denying a visa to "one of the ringleaders of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO)", it said. Kinkel's immature statement might be interpreted as an attempt to neutralize that gesture, the article added.

The paper further noted that it has been accepted even by the British that the fatwa is irrevocable because it is a religious edict first promulgated by the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him].

It underlined that Iran's stance is not exclusively Iran's: The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and most of the leaders in the Muslim world subscribe to the fatwa.

Rushdie's book humiliated one-fifth of the world's population, the article said, adding that world Muslims realize this and support the religious edict, first promulgated by their prophet, against an apostate writer.

It suggested that Kinkel and his supporters should be reminded that politicization of the fatwa is not in the interest of the world community and that of Muslims in particular.

The daily concluded by saying that the only way is to accept the edict as irrevocable, because Muslims cannot revoke a verdict promulgated by the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

U.S. Propaganda Said Sabotaging Azerbaijan Ties
LD2506135895 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1130 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan Republic, on June 24, in a meeting attended by high-ranking officials of the country, pointed to Tehran-Baku relations and said: No one can hinder the progress of relations between the two countries. The

Azerbaijan Republic's president stressed that those who make efforts to this end will not achieve success.

There is no doubt that Mr. Aliyev's stressing the interests of the government and the people of Azerbaijan in continuation of friendly and profound relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran has its roots in an undeniable historical fact; a fact that has made the relations between the two countries firm and unbreakable. Emergence of the newly independent republics after the collapse of the former Soviet Union was undoubtedly the biggest development in the political geography of the region in the past 50 years, drawing the attention of many countries to this part of the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which had only one country in its northern borders, has today several neighbours in the northern border and Azerbaijan enjoys special importance due to different reasons. Existence of cultural, religious, and historical affinities between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic constitute the main factors contributing to friendly relations between the two countries.

Considering the principles to which Iran has always been committed in its foreign policy and in view of different events occurred in the Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran has always rushed to the assistance of the anguished Muslim people of Azerbaijan in sensitive juncture, especially following problems caused by the Armenian aggression.

In fact it should be said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has made great political efforts in order to put an end to many problems of its northern neighbor. Unfortunately, however, despite the sincere efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in extending the hands of the friendship to its neighbors, some foreign countries, including the United States, have made attempts in the past few months to sabotage the relations between Iran and the newly independent republic by airing false propaganda. This is a policy which unfortunately persisting unceasingly and openly.

As such, Islamic Republic of Iran expects its neighbors not to allow poisonous propaganda of the foreign countries to disrupt profound relations between the two states. And this line of realistic remarks of Mr. Aliyev and his stressing the point that no one can harm the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan can be evaluated as a logical response to this expectation.

Azerbaijan Criticized for 'Weakness' Against U.S.

LD2606211395 *Tehran IRNA in English*
2101 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — If Azerbaijan government was to continue its good neighborly relations with Iran, it should prove it in practice and avoid making remarks which lack guarantee, said the morning daily ABRAR here Monday [26 June].

Commenting on the latest changes in Azerbaijan's attitude towards Iran, the Persian-language daily noted that such changes were rooted in Baku's tendency toward the West and some other reasons.

As for the reasons, the commentary referred to the weakness of Azerbaijan's leadership to resist against the U.S. pressures and the prospects of peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia as a result of which political situation in the Caucasus would be changed after transfer of Azerbaijan's oil via Armenia and Turkey.

The third reason, noted the paper, was Azerbaijan's concern over Iran-Russia cooperation to settle regional disputes as Baku had considered that settlement of regional clashes, including those of Karabakh, was contrary to its policy before spread of U.S. influence in the region.

As for the last cause, the paper argued since the republic faced economic problems and was unable to solve them, it needed a foreign excuse to distract its public opinion from the present problems. The foreign excuse was to make trouble for the Iranian Azeris to provoke nationalistic sentiments of the people of Azerbaijan which would result in turning their attention from the economic problems of their country to an unreal cause.

Blaming Azerbaijan for changing its policy towards Iran after it has become a member of the NATO "Partnership for Peace Plan," the paper said that after its membership in the plan, Baku showed remarkable changes in its attitude towards IRAN such as its mistreatment of Iranians residing in Azerbaijan or their relatives, avoiding payment of its debts to Iran and raising territorial claims against the latter in Azeri media which faced the silence of Baku government.

As for another examples of latest changes, the paper referred to avoiding to air programs of Islamic Republic of Iran broadcasting [words indistinct] and avoiding to allocate Iran's determined share in Azerbaijan oil consurtium.

The "new leader of Azerbaijan," Heydar Aliyev, gravitated towards Washington and Ankara while he was to reduce tension in the Caucasus by keeping the balance

in its relations with the U.S. and Russia on the one hand, and with Iran and Turkey on the other, noted the paper.

Stressing the fact that the two Iranian and azeri nations had many historic, political, cultural and ethnic common points, the paper said that Baku's efforts to fan the flames of anti-Iran propaganda was an "unwise" measure which was made by the former president Elchibey too leading him to choose living in "Kalki" village in Nakhichevan, concluded the paper.

Envoy Dismisses Report on Provincial Unrest

LD2606210295 *Tehran IRNA in English*
2049 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, June 26, IRNA — The deputy to the Iranian ambassador to Baku, Afshar Souleymani here on Monday [26 June] dismissed the report which appeared in the U.S. weekly, NEWSWEEK that there is unrest in Azeri provinces of Iran.

Souleymani told TOURAN news agency that the glorious welcome accorded by Azarbaijani people to President Hashemi Rafsanjani last week indicated baselessness of the NEWSWEEK report.

The U.S. weekly had quoted Hodayoun, an Iranian living in America, as saying that Iran recruited Armenian men to deal with any possible anti-government demonstration in Tabriz.

President Rafsanjani paid a five-day visit to Tabriz last week. He delivered a speech at Tabriz sports stadium and opened several development projects in Tabriz.

Azarbaijani people of Iran have time and again reiterated their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i who is himself of Azarbaijani descent.

Syrian Envoy Comments on Vice President's Visit

NC2506185595 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic* 1730 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Syrian Ambassador Ahmad al-Hasan by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 25 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, the Syrian delegation led by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam concluded its visit to Tehran today. What are the most important results of this visit?

[Al-Hasan] The visit came within the framework of the periodic meetings of the joint higher political committee, which is chaired by the two countries' vice presidents and which includes the foreign ministers. At

such meetings the committee reviews the latest regional and international developments in addition to bilateral ties. This visit was aimed at a general review of the international and regional situation, bilateral relations, and also of the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. The visit dealt with these issues.

[Correspondent] It appears that the two countries always fully coordinate on the important issues in the region, particularly those of Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq. Do you believe that there will be any developments in these issues in the wake of this visit?

[Al-Hasan] Undoubtedly. First, the two countries are bound by a unique strategic relationship, and it is important for high-level officials to meet from time to time to exchange views on the developments in the region, particularly with regard to the most prominent issue—namely, the Middle East peace process.

Regarding Iraq, the two countries underlined their continued adherence to their previous statements that they are committed to Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity of its people.

Regarding the peace process, Khaddam briefed the brother officials in the Iranian leadership on the latest developments on the Syrian-Israeli track. He stressed that despite its commitment to the peace process, Syria believes that peace cannot be achieved if Israel does not withdraw to the lines existing before 4 June 1967. He also stressed that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks have to advance together.

[Correspondent] Does the Syrian technical delegation's visit to Iraq to attend the meetings of the committee on the sharing of the Euphrates River water have any political significance?

[Al-Hasan] No. It has no political significance. This is a technical delegation, and it is customary for such delegations to meet periodically for consultations because there is still a problem of sharing the Euphrates River water among Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. The river passes through those three countries, and they must coordinate to reach a solution to this problem. There is no political significance; there are always meetings where technicians meet.

Talks Said 'Dominated' by Lebanon

MM2606155495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
25 Jun 95 p 4

[Reports by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus and AL-HAYAH bureau in Tehran: "Khaddam: We Will Not Impose Restrictions on Resistance in Lebanon"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fourth session of the Syrian- Iranian Joint Committee began in Tehran yesterday under the chairmanship of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi. It was attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. [passage omitted]

According to informed sources in Tehran, the Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon "dominated" the talks between the two sides, and the Iranians asked Damascus to "ignore any demands for the restriction of the Islamic and national resistance operations in the south." They quoted Khaddam as saying that Syria "will not impose any restrictions on the resistance, especially Hizballah, and it has not undertaken to stop the resistance operations without the liberation of the south and the Golan." They also said that Khaddam and Habibi discussed Washington's embargo on Iran.

It should be noted that Iran is opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Official Pays Visit to Tehran

Discusses Bilateral Relations

LD2406212995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1930 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran, the first deputy foreign minister of Pakistan discussed bilateral relations and important regional and international issues. According to the Central News Unit, at this round of talks, which were held on Saturday [24 June] afternoon, the two sides spoke about the good relations between the two countries and stressed the need for expanding cooperation in various fields even further and for holding regular periodic talks.

Meets Majles Official

LD2506130895 Tehran IRNA in English
1245 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — The visiting Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister, Najmuddin Shaikh here on Sunday [25 June] expressed doubt about

possibility of free elections being held in Kashmir in the near future.

In a meeting with deputy chairman of Majles foreign policy commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani, Najmuddin Shaikh emphasized the importance of Tehran-Islamabad relations as well as peace and stability in the region.

Larijani said drawing a general perspective for the future of the region is a must given the destructive role of Israel.

The Iranian parliamentarian criticized the statement issued by the Group of Seven industrial states, G7 in Halifax, Canada and said the statement has envisaged a single regional economic network with Israel playing a key role.

On Afghanistan, Larijani said any delay in establishing a legitimate government in Afghanistan will pave the way for interference of foreigners. He underlined the need for peace and start of reconstruction era in Afghanistan.

The two officials hoped that the parliaments of Iran and Pakistan will hold a working meeting with some other Islamic nations.

Addresses Cooperation With Velayati

*LD2506105795 Tehran IRNA in English
1048 GMT 25 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Najmuddin Shaykh [title as received] here Sunday [25 June] reviewed bilateral relations and the latest regional developments.

The current situation in the world of Islam particularly the situation in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine and Kashmir were among other major topics discussed by the two officials.

Referring to the friendly and growing cooperation between the two countries, Shaikh, who arrived here Saturday, termed the exchange of visits between the two republics officials as 'positive and useful' in the trend of achieving their common objectives.

Outlining the dimensions of the regional and international cooperation, the Pakistani diplomat voiced his country's readiness to promote ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commenting on the practical stages of a number of joint projects under construction, Velayati termed the finalization of the establishment of Iran-Pakistan oil pipeline as a positive step taken towards expansion of mutual economic ties.

The establishment of the oil pipeline was finalized in the course of the recent visit of the Iranian oil minister, Gholamreza Aqazadeh to Pakistan and holding of the 9th session of the Joint Economic Commission.

The foreign minister further underlined the need to employ all existing potentials in the two Muslim and neighboring countries to further their bilateral ties.

Turkish Envoy Views 'Baseless' Allegations, Ties

*LD2606204395 Tehran IRNA in English
2007 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, June 26, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Baqeri in an interview with a Turkish daily, calling baseless the allegations which recently appeared in some of the Turkish newspapers, underlined that the opponents of the Turkish government have no bases within the Iranian territory.

The Turkish daily "WHITE AND BLACK" here today, quoting the Iranian ambassador, wrote that despite creating a negative atmosphere by some of the Turkish newspapers, a friendly atmosphere and complete understanding was visible here in the meetings between the visiting Iranian delegations and the Turkish high ranking officials such as President Suleyman Demirel early last week.

The daily added that Baqeri has expressed that the U.S. attempts to create crises in the region and tries to take advantage of the situation. That is why the U.S. tries to create problems in the existing relations between Iran and the neighboring countries. In this situation, the U.S. tries to prepare the ground for its military presence in the region.

The U.S. policies are known to the world peoples including the two Iranian and Turkish Muslim nations. The Iranian and Turkish nations will be able to foil all the U.S. mischievous moves, Baqeri has said.

Commentary Warns Turkey Against Military Action

NC2306155695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey's Internal Problems Are Gradually Becoming More Difficult"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish officials expressed conflicting views on relations between Turkey and Iran 24 hours after Deputy Interior Minister Gholam-Hoseyn Bolendian handed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to President Demirel in Ankara. The message informed President Demirel that the Islamic Republic of

Iran upholds the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of neighboring countries and that the Iranian Administration will not allow its territory to be used as a base for attacks on Iran's neighbors. That, it said, is Iran's strategic and political principle for establishing and maintaining border security.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message was very clear. It was natural for Tehran to expect the Turkish Government to understand it. But AFP quoted Prime Minister Ciller and the Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying, on 21 June, that the Kurdish guerrillas who are opposed to the Turkish Government use several bases in Iran to attack the Turkish military forces. Everyone knows that high-ranking Turkish officials' inclination to blame the neighboring countries for Turkey's problems is linked with Turkish Government failures in the economic and military fields. An army of 35,000 men attacked the opposition guerrillas in northern Iraq in spring. Officials claimed that the cross-border operation was successful. But it failed to achieve its objectives. In addition, the Ciller government failed in its struggle against unemployment and the high rate of inflation in Turkey. That plunged Turkish officials into difficulty.

Those who fail to solve problems at home try to divert the people's attention. They try to link the problems with foreign factors. But that is a banal and useless political tactic. The attempt to divert the people's attention should be seen as an effort to conceal officials' failure to solve the country's problems. Obviously, that is the Turkish officials' policy. The Islamic Republic of Iran has tried hard to contribute toward border security but Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has ignored this and said Turkey's cross-border operation against northern Iraq must be a lesson to all of Turkey's neighbors.

Ciller and all those who make similar claims must consider the capability the heroic Iranian fighters displayed during their eight-year sacred war to defend the Islamic Republic of Iran's border and realize that the unsuccessful cross-border operation against northern Iraq cannot be repeated against Iran.

Commentary Views John Major's Resignation

LD2306131195 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1130 GMT 23 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. John Major, the British prime minister, on Thursday, June 22, in a brief speech at his office in 10 Downing Street, announced his resignation from the leadership of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Major has tendered the resignation from the Conservative Party leadership when he and his party are placed in a weak position. Over the last three years, due to the poor performance of his government in domestic affairs and his country's European policy, Mr. Major has been facing opposition from a minority group within the party. These matters have undermined the political position of the ruling party and the British Government.

Economic problems of Britain, including the rising unemployment and inflation, financial scandals that have led to the resignation of 15 members of the British cabinet, coupled with the government's incompetence in domestic and foreign policies, have all prepared grounds for political efforts by the rival members of the Conservative Party to assume the party leadership.

The party members are also endeavoring to restore the lost prestige of the party. The ruling Conservative Party has lost its prestige, mostly on account of its heavy defeats in elections to the city councils in England, Wales, and Scotland. Presently, there is a tough rivalry between Mr. Major and his opponents in the Conservative Party. For this reason Mr. Major, in a bid to put an end to his opponents' objections and also to stabilize his political position, has left the Conservative Party leadership, opening the way for a contest with other candidates.

Among the likely rivals of John Major for the Conservative Party leadership, mention can be made of Secretary of Economy [Chancellor of the Exchequer] Mr. Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of Trade and Industries [and President of the Board of Trade] Mr. Michael Heseltine, and Labour Secretary [Employment Secretary] Michael Portillo.

From among these three members of the British cabinet, it is predicted that Mr. Michael Heseltine will have greater support from the Conservative Party deputies. Hence, there is a very strong possibility of his becoming the next leader of the Conservative Party, replacing Mr. Major. Therefore, it is predicted that in the event of Mr. Major's defeat in elections for party leadership next month, he will have to make his exit from the premiership and hold premature parliamentary elections in the coming months.

Paper Responds to Letter on Media

95LA0258E *Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian* 17 May 95 pp 12-13

[FBIS Translated Text] [Boxed item] One of the honorable readers of KEYHAN-E HAVA'I has sent us a letter in which, while criticizing the press and raising questions regarding the methods, goals, and views of reporters, poses the question of whether or not journalism

in Iran can be described as a difficult task. In response to the questions of this honorable reader and also to discuss issues and problems which the press community in Iran faces, the manager of KEYHAN-E HAVA'I has engaged in an evaluation of the existing situation in the press community and the duties of the committed journalists. The letter of this reader and the response of the manager of KEYHAN-E HAVA'I follow. [end boxed item]

Honorable Manager of KEYHAN-E HAVA'I:

Greetings, with the hope of continued success for you and your honorable colleagues.

In KEYHAN-E HAVA'I No. 1119, page 3, dated 19 Bahman 1373 [8 February 1995], there was an article concerning the request of journalists regarding the difficulty of their profession, how it involves financial risks, and about being respected, about which I would like to comment.

1. I do not know about the number of journalists who have attained martyrdom in the imposed war, but which one of our journalists has been constantly present in the regional or international wars? As far as I know and follow the news, the sources for all events of the regional wars and the world are the telexes of foreign news agencies. Whenever there is more news from Bosnia, Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Palestine on the telexes of news agencies, we witness the same amount of tangible change in our newspapers and television news coverage, and when reports and news decreases regarding these issues, the volume of dealing with them in our newspapers also decreases.

2. Which one of our journalists has pursued the misuses and embezzlements in the country that unfortunately are common and mostly concern people with economic power—such as the recent events of the Saderat Bank—and exposed the offenders in the interests of the revolution?

3. Which one of the journalists has criticized discrimination and misjudgments by some of the judges and tried to eliminate them?

4. Which one of the journalists has exposed the unnecessary foreign travels and violations in the departments and Iranian Customs and made an effort up to the point of actually uncovering the truth?

5. Which one of our journalists has given a correct and impartial analysis of the executive and economic situation in the country, questioned the related officials about it, and made an effort to enlighten and promote the political understanding and common sense of the society?

6. In my opinion, our journalists are scribes who transmit what is said by the executive officials verbatim without any proper analysis and questions to the society. If all the newspapers are shut down and only one is allowed to publish, there will not be much change in the awareness and enlightenment of the society. This is most unfortunate.

You and your colleagues know this and much more.

7. Which one of the reporters and journalists has impartially examined the financial and social life of a Majles deputy or minister, informed the people about it, and effected a change in the condition your deputy was elected under and, after completing his period as a deputy, with what resources, income, and financial conditions he has stepped aside from the ministerial or deputy positions?

8. Which one of the journalists has complained about the elimination of the Hezbollah and sincere forces of the revolution, written an article criticizing it, or pursued it until the proper right was achieved? Do you want an example?

The dismissal of Dr. ..., the neurosurgeon specialist who is a member of the Hezbollah forces, a very learned person of the Shahid Beheshti University and the Martyrs Hospital, by Dr. ..., the head of the neurosurgery division and the dean of the medical college, due to narrow-mindedness and intolerance in the presence of a sincere person devoted to the late imam and the grand leader of the Islamic revolution.

Certainly you know more than this but refuse to tell and reveal the truth, imagining that it will harm the revolution.

Considering the above, is journalism a difficult job in Iran?

Mr. Manager, this letter is not from a counterrevolutionary. Unfortunately, sometimes the interests of the revolution have been sacrificed for personal gain and have prepared the grounds for opportunism and flattery.

I do not deny the positive work done in the years after the revolution, but the negative cannot be ignored. While introducing the positive work that has been due, efforts must be made to correct the errors as well. As a journalist, you have a grave duty in this connection. I hope you will succeed in your journalistic mission.

Respectfully,

Dr. Mohammad Ebrahim Vahedi

Revered Reader, Dr. Vahedi:

Greetings to you and other dear compatriots who, while doing their social duty, do not neglect the cultural, political, and economic affairs of the society and participate properly and seriously in determining the future destiny of this country.

We take the opportunity provided by your criticism of the journalist and reporter community in the country to discuss and investigate the position of this profession. Even though it seems that before being upset at us journalists, you are upset about the lack of clarity of the greater issues of the country. In any case, even though some of your criticism concerning the lack of serious activity of the Iranian press must be fairly accepted, it seems that on this issue you have left the course of moderation and have ignored many of the positive actions of the writers and those in this profession.

Noting the fact that the situation of the press in the country is closely tied to the youth of the political regime of the country, we will modify to some extent expectations and provide the grounds for expert criticism. In the past, because essentially the political affairs of the country were dependent on the dominant policies of Western powers, the press had no function except to spread the culture of the superior power in the society. After gaining political independence, however, the print media was placed in a new arena, which required the removal of many obstacles before it became a political organ of the country. The difficulties on this path can be understood well when we keep in mind the political situation of the country in the course of these years. Under the circumstances that the volume of external criticism by today's enemies and yesterday's dominators over this country against such an invasion, the press would also have to institutionalize internal criticism.

The condition for the success of the institutionalization of freedom of expression and opinion in the society, in which area the press plays an effective role, is to leave behind the period of adolescence, despite the many obstacles, and reach some degree of growth.

This growth will be achieved when not only the executive officials have reached the understanding that criticism from within is not destructive but acts to strengthen the programs and policies and when the critics are able to impartially and without factional approaches express their views within the framework of national interests and goals. Hence, if any regime is able to institutionalize the principle of criticism within itself, it will have gained an effective tool to strengthen itself. Therefore, we believe that the place of criticism must be stabilized in the country. On this basis, as the national will to fight the propaganda invasion of the enemy requires the critics to be strengthened as well

within the framework of accepted orders and by their opinions help the system of reform from within to thrive, undoubtedly, this will be in the interest of everyone in this country.

Fortunately, effective steps to achieve this goal have been taken, part of which is the result of criticism in the media, and the discomfort of some of the officials with regard to the actions of the press supports the fact that the grounds for corrective approaches have been prepared on various levels. Here we must not forget one point: there is no specific definition of the duty of the press among the people in the society, even if you, in your criticism of the press, have only looked at some of the duties of the press. This issue has also, unfortunately, caused some elements in the press to pursue boisterous methods of criticism and, sheltered by it, hide some of their own basic weaknesses in performing their mission. However, the duty of the press can be explained in three parts: reporting the news, oversight, and strengthening the intellectual capability of the society.

With regard to reporting the news, the press in the country so far has chosen the easiest way and has easily passed by events when they have face doubt about their publication on the basis of national interests, calling it "self-censorship." Today, however, they are entering more difficult arenas and gaining the necessary experience. For example, at one time the news of the crash of a military airplane in the country seemed very difficult for journalists, but under the present conditions, because they have gained proper analytical and comparative capabilities regarding the boundaries, journalists are more willing to report such news before the foreign media transmissions. Of course, your criticism still is valid in many respects. Sometimes, due to laziness or not being knowledgeable about the complex economic and social issues of the country, reporters have a reactive approach, or as you put it play the role of scribes in such cases. In this connection, as was pointed out, the profession's youth, in a new period in Iran, and the economic situation of the press that has resulted in the departure of experienced personnel who have left for high-paying jobs, have added to the problems. The weaknesses of news management in the press and lack of variety of news production centers in the country have affected the shortcomings in news reporting as an essential duty of the print media.

In connection with the oversight position of the press, which you have limited to following the actions of executive officials, we believe that as the people's observers, reporters have other duties in this connection. Of course, the people, because they deal on a daily basis with the executive institutions, wish for the weaknesses of this sector to be more scrutinized by the press, but

certainly, while considering your wish and those of the other compatriots reasonable, I say that the press must simultaneously oversee other affairs as well, including the involvement of foreigners in the cultural arena. The negligence of some official institutions in this regard, unfortunately, has caused irreparable damage.

To ignore this aspect of the actions of the press and with regard to overseeing the actions of the executive officials, you have been unfair, but we regard this as due to your concern. Otherwise, the frequent complaints of the executive officials to the judicial organizations about us, the press, indicate that the duties have been performed to some extent in this regard. Of course, we could possibly have responded more than we have to the wishes of the people, but this depends on the financial capability and the number of people in every newspaper. Avoiding boisterous approaches and reporting on the basis of facts requires significant competence. We hope that your emphasis and that of other dear readers on one of the duties of the press will not steer us toward superficial and noisy approaches, because we consider this tendency to be an obstacle to the institutionalization of legitimate freedoms and believe that those executive officials who are not upset by the institutionalization of the freedom to criticize their actions will benefit most from this method to restrict the freedom of the press. [sentence as published]

The viewpoint that you have not used to criticize the actions of the national press is the serious responsibility the press has to strengthen the intellectual capabilities of the society. In other words, a society without the capability of properly analyzing events will not be able to rationally benefit from the news; this can only be achieved through strengthening the intellectual capability of the society. In many societies today, the media bombard their audiences with news, but because of a lack of analytical capability in the individual, the current of daily news can pull the individual in a different direction each day. It must be admitted that since the revolution, the press has taken serious steps in this regard, but because it is separate from other links, efforts in this connection have not been noted very much.

Among the elements that can be mentioned as a link is intellectual work in the area of the political movements in the society. In the absence of intellectual exchange, the press has had a difficult task. With the entry into the society of presses affiliated with political organizations, the hope was created that there would be an increase in intellectual exchange, the result of which is the strengthening of the intellectual capabilities of the society. Unfortunately, this hope has not come to fruition regarding the newspapers, and a tendency

toward boisterous conflicts has rapidly overshadowed this characteristic.

Even though the retreat of the managers of these newspapers in the presence of the Arbitration Committee has caused them to avoid the confrontational issues to some extent, the media also suffers from another shortcoming: a lack of a unified political organization. In unified political party organizations, the clarification of group perspectives concerning various political, cultural, economic, and other issues as well as devised policies to operate the society are important, but under the present conditions, the organized work by these movements is less often reflected in the newspapers. Here, we must refer to the duty of experts such as yourself with regard to the press and subsequently public opinion. The press media not affiliated with a political organization needs help in carrying out their serious duty of strengthening the intellectual capability of the society. Certainly, you will admit that the press should not merely reflect the intellectual capabilities of a few of its writers.

Unfortunately, both in the area of strengthening the oversight duty and in the area of the exchange of ideas we see little serious cooperation by experts. Under such circumstances, we should expect nothing less than for the media to move toward noisy approaches to attract the attention of the uninformed strata of the society. The safeguard of a nation in the storm of political events from repeating the bitter experiences of the past is the intellectual growth of the society. It is as a result of intellectual growth that nation will be able to attain political independence and extend independence to other areas. Under the present conditions, what has caused our people to act differently in various areas is that the problems have not been carefully explained to them. For instance, in the sacred defense, they had the main role and sacrificed all they had on this path, but we see that they find it difficult to tolerate inflation for the sake of development. The reason is that the concept of development has not been institutionalized for the people through the print media.

You might say the attitude of the people is due to their witnessing the contradictory actions of some of the executive officials. While we do not deny this point, we believe that this issue also existed during the sacred defense, more or less. Then what kept such shortcomings from having much influence on the people? We shall certainly find the answer in the institutionalization of the defense against aggression. Also, the national press has not taken any effective steps to find the roots of the structural and systemic problems of the society concerning the shortcomings of the system. The political, economic, and social systems in the world have certainly had many problems at

first. What has caused them to make progress gradually has been the use of the theoretical potential of the society. The print media, by identifying and talking with intellectuals and theorists, have played a distinctive role in changing the structures, but where do these weaknesses that you referred to, and those we know ourselves, come from?

We must say that still many of the executive officials have not become aware of the necessity of an oversight tool, such as the print media. On the other hand, the place of the press has not been institutionalized in the political system of the country, for such individuals feel obliged to respond to public opinion through the press. In countries where the press belongs to the powerful centers and its place has been recognized, the path for the print media is smooth. Reporters and journalists act as the arm of events and enjoy vast resources. Even in the arena of diplomacy, the press speaks for government officials and are counted on for political balance. Under the present conditions, the print media in Iran faces problems both in terms of hardware and software, and these shortcomings have a significant effect on their work. Of course, to these problems the rush of some economic centers to use the media tool must also be added.

In conclusion, it is necessary to review the issues with which you believe the reporters and journalists of our country have not dealt. A review of the work of KEYHAN-E HAVA'I at least proves the opposite of your accusation. As was pointed out, due to dealing with the violations of some officials, many complaints have been registered against the newspaper in the courts, and in all instances of the cases being sent to court, the newspaper has been acquitted because it has acted with proof. Also, blame the accusation of being scribes on not reading the serious interviews of the newspaper with the executive officials. If you wish to read the impartial analyses presented in the newspaper concerning the economic conditions of the country, we are prepared to send you a list. Again, we remind you that with the exception of this last issue, which has the growth of the society as a consequence, being satisfied with presenting reports of problems, even though it might satisfy some, will not result in growth. We can control the problems when, while finding the essential roots of such phenomena, we prevent their repetition. Many errors in the society in addition to individual motives have external factors. The elimination of these factors requires precise and expert understanding, in which area we hope experts such as yourself will help us.

With all due respect,

*Abbas Salimi-Namin

Pakistan

Editorial Says U.S. Planning To Sabotage Economy
95AS0444C Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 28 May 95
p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. Plan to Destroy Pakistani Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our information, the United States is considering imposing restrictions on the import of various Pakistani products. These restrictions are the outcome of the U.S. worldwide campaign against using child labor. Under the campaign, the United States will decide whether to open its market to some countries or not. According to a U.S. State Department report, hundreds of thousands of Pakistani children are forced to work in making rugs, leather goods, and other products. This is dubbed a modern slavery system by the State Department. It should be clear that the United States has already banned import of rugs from Pakistan [as published]. The United States expressed its decision to impose restrictions on imports of items produced by forced child labor from several third world countries as Bangladesh, India, and Brazil, however, its speedy action while dealing with Pakistan shows that Pakistan is a special U.S. target. It is clear that the United States has no other goal but to sabotage Pakistan's economy or seriously harm it.

From many aspects this action of the United States appears to be very shallow. As for child labor in the rug industry, this has been true for 40 years in Pakistan and the United States was fully aware of it. However, it did not present it as a problem in the past and continued to import Pakistani rugs. Now the government's eyes have become sharper and it has begun to view it as a problem! It is natural for us to be skeptical about it and Pakistani people are not wrong when they assume that the United States is doing all this to get its way on some specific issue. If Pakistan accepts all U.S. conditions, the United States will take back its objection within a day or will, at least, become totally silent about it as it always did.

It is obvious that our goal is not to force children to work. However, it should be viewed in the light of economic and social conditions in developed and developing countries. The affluent nations are in the position to prevent their children from working. However, countries with limited resources are not in such a position. If the developing nations cannot provide square meals to its population, it does not have the right to snatch it away from the people, either. The financial condition of a family forces it to have its children work. Most of the people do not have the desire to crush the childhood and the future of their children in the vise of child labor. The parents want their children to be educated and

build a new world for themselves. The United States and other Western nations should keep the helplessness of the developing countries in view. Obviously, if they measure every issue according to their own standards, there will be problems in bilateral relations and trade. It is clear that Pakistan is not in such a position. Let us say that Pakistan is in such a position and since it is an Islamic country and Islam does not approve illicit relations or illegitimate children, therefore, it would not import U.S. products, impose restrictions on import of U.S. products until it does not stop all extra-marital relations. Of course, we can desire that the world follow our principles, but we have no right to force our principles on others.

The United States considers child labor a modern version of slavery and dislikes it. However, the United States also does not like many other things. For example, the United States considers the concept of human rights a very important aspect of its foreign policy and it does not tolerate violation of it. However, is it really true? Not really! If it were true then it would have imposed import restrictions on half the nations in the world. We would not know how the United States would treat itself since the human rights situation in United States is not satisfactory. The Amnesty International has pointed this out in its recent report. It is clear that import restrictions on Pakistan is a political ploy and it has nothing to do with human rights. The United States wants to end our nuclear program, reduction in our armed forces, and does not want to import our products. It means that the United States has a solid plan to destroy Pakistan and is implementing it in phases. The people of Pakistan should understand this thoroughly.

Minister: Ramzi Yusef Extradition May Be Sought

BK2706101095 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 27 Jun 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) — Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar said, a Pakistani official will visit USA on July 5, 6, 7 to investigate into the cases against Ramzi Yusuf in Pakistan and that he might ask USA to extradite Yusef to Pakistan.

Babar was answering a question from Hafiz Taqi, who wanted to know that how many Pakistanis have been extradited so far and whether Pakistan also sought the extradition of any criminal from any country.

The Interior Minister told the House that seven persons in 1991 and another seven in 1995 have been extradited while 49 are waiting extradition. Pakistan has asked the

US government for the extradition of two persons, Saeed Shaikh and Khushnood. The process for the extradition of Saeed Shaikh is underway.

IRNA Reports on Arrest of KGB Agent

LD2606105295 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 26, IRNA — An agent of KGB, intelligence agency of erstwhile Soviet Union, was arrested at Islamabad airport, Interior Minister Nasrullah Khan Babar told National Assembly Sunday [25 June].

He told parliament's lower house that some video films and a camera were also recovered from the spy.

He, however, did not disclose further details.

Iranian Envoy Confers With Army Chief

LD2606212495 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 26, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan and the commander of the ground forces of Pakistan who is also number one man in the army, met to discuss cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries.

At the meeting on Sunday [25 June], General Abdulvaheed pointed out the good historical relations and the strong ties between two countries.

He said: The government and people of Pakistan have always been on the side of their Iranian brothers and always will be.

The Iranian ambassador underlined that Iran is keen to strengthen and fortify its relations with all its neighbours based on friendship and brotherhood. We take every step towards keeping peace and stability in the region, he said.

He pointed out to the failure of the USA policies in the recent meeting of the heads of industrial countries in Canada, and said that the independent governments in the world would follow their own chosen path and they are not prepared to accept the policies dictated to them by bullies.

Finally they discussed the recent agreements made on projects such as construction of gas pipelines, the joint venture project on refinery and several other commercial and economic activities.

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